ASHEVILLE NEWS.

VOL. 7—NO. 30. ASHEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1856. WHOLE NO. 331.

ASHEVILLE NEWS.

BY THOMAS W. ATKIN.

☞TERMS.—*Two Dollars* per annum, in advance; *Two Dollars and fifty cents* in six months; or *Three Dollars* at the end of the year.

☞No order for the paper, out of this county, will receive any attention, unless accompanied with the amount of one year's subscription.

☞Advertisements inserted at *One Dollar* per square of *twelve* lines, for the first and *twenty-five* cents for each subsequent insertion.

☞For announcing the name of a candida.e, Three Dollars.

☞From these terms there will be no departure, in any case. Liberal contracts made with those who desire to advertise by the year.

DR. P. A. WILHITE,

Wholesale and Retail Druggist

ANDERSON C. H., S. C.,

HAS just received, and will keep, constantly on hand, a very large and well selected stock of

Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Brushes, Window Glass, French and American.

Also, Dealer in American, French and English

Chemicals, Drugs,

Perfumery, French Candies, Snuffs, Fine

Tobacco and Cigars.

FANCY ARTICLES AND DYE-STUFFS.

—*ALSO*—

Fine Brandies and Wines,

Sold only for medical purposes.

Merchants and all others can depend upon their orders meeting prompt attention, upon the most accommodating terms.

Physicians and Families can rely on having their prescriptions carefully compounded.

His Goods are selected with great care, and will be warranted as represented.

☞Call at No. 3, Brick Range, one door above Harrison & Broyles' law office.

August 10, 1854.

For the Ladies.

Now opened and for sale, a very desirable lot of LADIES DRESS GOODS, latest styles.—Also, wool Shawls, of a superior quality.

W. D. RANKIN & Co.

Attention!

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber, either by note or book account, prior to the 1st of January, 1854 are requested to come forward and settle, without further delay.

WM. L. HILLIARD.

Asheville, Dec. 21, 1854

BOOTS, shoes, saddlery, hardware, candies, raisins, citron, currants, sugar, coffee, jewelry, iron, nails, leather, castings, and everything else you ever heard of as an article of merchandise. Be sure to call, at the old stand, and see our goods and hear our prices.

SMITH & McDOWELL.

Asheville, April 6, 1854.

Wool Wanted.

We want to buy ten thousand pounds good clean washed Wool, for which we will pay goods at very low prices.

W. D. RANKIN & CO.

May 26, '53.

SMITH, BAIRD & VANCE take occasion to inform their friends and the public that they have associated with them in the *Mercantile Business*, R. M. JONES, and that the style of the firm from and after the first of April, 1855, is *Smith, Baird & Co.*

Asheville, May 3, 1855.

Furniture For Sale.

The undersigned keep constantly on hand at their shop in Asheville a large quantity of well made and superior finished

Furniture,

of the most fashionable kind, consisting of *Chairs, Cane and Cushioned bottoms and other qualities, Sofas, Bureaus, Guitars, and a number of Violins, Bows and Strings* of the best quality. Those who are desirous of purchasing any article of Furniture of any description, will do well to call and see their assortment before purchasing elsewhere, as they are determined to sell at the very lowest price and on the best terms. J. & J. HILDEBRAN.

GOWER & DAVID,

General Receiving, Forwarding and Commission

MERCHANTS,

GREENVILLE, S. C.

Constantly on hand a good assortment of *GROCERIES* to sell cheap.

DAVIS N. GOWER. THOS. C. GOWER, J. A DAVID.

Greenville, August 30, 1855.

COMMITTED TO JAIL,

IN ASHEVILLE, ON THE 11th instant, a runaway negro, who says that his name is

ABRAHAM,

And that he belongs to William Wardy, of Madison county, Georgia, who bought him recently from Thomas Walker. Said boy is about 37 years old, tolerably black, quick spoken, about five feet eight inches high, and weighs probably 150 or 60 pounds. He had written passes, which he says he wrote himself. He can read tolerable well. He says he is a carpenter by trade.

The owner of said negro man is hereby required to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take him away, otherwise he will be dealt with as the law directs.

JOHN W. WILSON,
Jailor.

Asheville, Sept. 13, '55. tf

Hardware

WE have the largest stock of Hardware and Cutlery that we have ever had. Give us a call ye blacksmiths, carpenters, waggoners, shoe-makers and farmers, we can supply you with almost any thing under this head.

SMITH & McDOWELL.

A. W. BURTON,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

And Solicitor of the 7th Judicial Circuit,

SHELBY, CLEAVELAND COUNTY, N. CAROLINA.

WILL practice in the Superior Courts of Law and Equity of Cherokee, Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Henderson, Buncombe, Madison, Yancy, McDowell, Caldwell, Watauga, Burke, Rutherford and Cleaveland. Also, in the Supreme Court at Morganton.

☞Collections of all kinds, including Pension claims, attended to strictly.

Refers to the Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of North Carolina.

April 6, 1854.

David Coleman,

Attorney at Law,

BURNSVILLE, N. C.

March 3, 1853.—tf.

R. M. HENRY,

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

G. W. WHITSON,

SURGEON DENTIST,

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

DR. J. F. E. HARDY

AND

DR. W. L. HILLIARD,

HAVE this day associated themselves in the practice of *MEDICINE*, in its various branches.

DR. HARDY, who is daily in the village, will be always ready to examine cases and make out prescriptions, and when in his power visit cases in the country. Dr. Hilliard will attend to his town and country practice as usual. We would especially call the attention of all persons laboring under diseases requiring Surgical aid, to this card. We will take especial pains to assist all persons living at a distance in procuring suitable boarding houses in or near the village, and render them such relief as the profession is capable of.

Office at Dr. Hilliard's Drug Store.

Asheville, January 2, 1855. tf

M. L. NEILSON, M. D.,

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

January 11, 1855. t

DR. J. D. REYNOLDS,

HAVING permanently located in Asheville, offers his Professional services to the citizens of town and country,

Office and residence, Asheville Hotel.

March 8, 1855. 1y

Rankin, Pulliam & Co.,

IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

Foreign and Domestic Staple and Fancy

Dry Goods and Clothing,

131 MEETING STREET,

Charleston, S. C.

WM. D. RANKIN, } { P. M. CRAIGMILES,
R. W. PULLIAM, } { A. D. SMITH.

Sept. 29, '53.

SMITH & McDOWELL,

Dealers in Dry Goods, Hardware, Groceries, Crockery, &c. &c.

Asheville, N. C.

W. D. RANKIN & CO.

Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hard ware, Crockery, &c. &c.

Asheville, N. C.

SMITH, BAIRD & CO.,

Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, and Merchandise generally;

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Ramsay's Piano Store,

COLUMBIA, S. C.

Music and Musical Instruments

NUNNS & Co's Patent Dingional Grand PIANOS; Hallet, Davis & Co.'s Patent Suspension Bridge PIANOS; Chickerings, Travers' and other best maker's Pianos, at the FACTORY PRICES.

Columbia August 18, 1854—1y

W. L. HILLIARD, M. D.,

Apothecary & Druggist,

Asheville, N. C.

HAS now, and will keep constantly on hand, a well selected stock of

Pure and Genuine

Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Dye Stuffs, Painters' articles, Hair, Nail and Tooth Brushes, Fine Soaps, Cologne Water, Hair Oils, Extracts, &c. &c. &c.

Having used care and attention in the selection of his stock, the patronage of the public is respectfully solicited, feeling assured that the quality and prices of his goods cannot fail to render satisfaction to all.

☞Physicians prescriptions accurately compounded at all hours.

Asheville, April 5, '55. tf

FIRST IN TOWN!

SMITH & McDOWELL

HAVE just received and are now opening the heaviest and best assortment of Spring and Summer

GOODS,

they ever brought to this market, and one which for richness and variety cannot be surpassed in the South. They were bought for cash, and are offered at prices which cannot fail to please every customer. We do not deal in humbuggery, and when we say we can sell goods cheap, we mean what we say. We invite our old friends and customers and the public generally, to call and look through our stock, and examine our prices,

Wide Awake Know Nothing, and Young America Hats, together with Plush caps, and other styles, compose a part of the large stock of goods to be found at

SMITH, BAIRD & VANCE'S.

SUPERIOR FLOUR.

30 Bags Superior FLOUR, just received, and for sale by

June 21. SMITH & McDOWELL.

For the Ladies, Especially

WE have silks, satins, ginghams, alpaceas, prints, plaids of every hue and color, muslins, mourning muslins, lawns of every color, barages, delains, silk tissues, veils, black, brown, green and blue love veils; shawls, a large and elegant assortment; worsted goods of every kind, worked collars, embroidered under sleeves, chemizetts; white and black laces, edgings, lace fringe, dress trimmings, linens, jackonnets, Victoria lawns. Bonnets—Belgrade, Lace, Straw and Bloomers. Flowers, wreaths, gloves, perfumery, &c. &c.

SMITH & McDOWELL.

The Last Call.

IT is now near the 1st day of January, 1855, and all persons indebted to us are requested, for the last time, to call and make payment. With many we have waited long, and now we are compelled to collect. If payment is not made during the month of January, you may look for your note or account in the hands of an officer. Collect we must. Further indulgence cannot be given. SMITH & McDOWELL.

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTION

for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.

THE next session of this Institution will commence on the first Monday in September. It is very important that pupils should be punctual in their attendance at the beginning of the session.

Applications for admission, &c., should be made to WM. D. COOKE, Principal.

August 16, 1855. 6t.

GRASS SEEDS.

No. 1 Clover, Timothy and Herds grass seeds, for sale by SMITH, BAIRD & VANCE.

March 15, 1855.

Clarendon Iron Works.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

A. H. Vanbokkelen, Proprietor.

THE subscriber having purchased the entire interest in the "Clarendon Iron Works," solicits orders for

Steam Engines of any power or style,
Saw Mills of every variety,
Mining Machinery and Pumps,
Grist and Flour Mills, complete,
Parker, Turbine, and other Water wheels,
Rice field Pumps and Engines,
Leavitt's Corn and Cob Crusher,
Rice Thrashers,
Shingle Machines,
Shafting Hangers and Pullies,
Cotton Gins and Gearing,
Iron Castings of all kinds and patterns,
Brass " " "
Locomotive and Tubular Boilers,
Fine and plain Cylinder Boilers,
Blacksmith work of all kinds,
Iron Doors for Houses and Jails.

THE ESTABLISHMENT

Having been re-organized for the express purpose of insuring punctuality in the execution of all orders, the public may rest satisfied that any work which may offer will be promptly delivered according to promise, and of such workmanship as cannot fail to give satisfaction.

The Mechanical Department

Being in charge of men of talents and experience, I have no hesitation in saying that the work hereafter turned out, shall compare favorably in every respect with that of the most celebrated in the States, and at prices which will make it to the interest of all in want to send me their orders.

REPAIR WORK

Always done without delay—and having a large force for that purpose, it will prove advantageous to any person needing such to give me the preference without regard to expense of sending same from a distance.

Orders will be addressed to "Clarendon Irom Works," Wilmington, N. C.

A. H. VANBOKKELEN.

October 15. tf

CHARLOTTE HOTEL.

THIS Hotel situated in the centre of the town of Charlotte, convenient to all the places of business—is still kept open for public accommodation. The proprietor has been engaged in keeping a public house at this stand for fourteen years. He now offers to the use of the public a new edition of his former house greatly enlarged and improved, presenting in front a two story **Verandah** 100 feet in length by 12 feet in width, handsomely shaded by trees in the side walk, affording a pleasant promenade at all hours of the day.

The house is thoroughly furnished throughout and in every part of it creature comforts are abundant and tangible, especialy in the **Dining Room**, where the inner man is renewed day by day.

Connected with this Hotel are stables affording room for 100 horses, abundantly furnished with grain and provender, attended by faithful and obliging hostlers.

The proprietor feels confident that with his long experience and many new advantages added to his own native disposition to be pleasing and agreeable, he is prepared to offer to his friends and the rest of mankind, as many comforts and as much good cheer as will be found anywhere, perhaps a little more so.

J. B. KEER.

Charlotte, N. C., Aug. 23, 1855. 3m.

$100 REWARD.

SOUTH CAROLINA—CHESTER DISTRICT.

STOLEN from the subscriber, on the 20th of October

A NEGRO WOMAN and 3 Children.

The two eldest, boys, are mulattos; the youngest black and a female The ages of the children—eldest five years the second three, the youngest one. Supposed to be in the possession of Thomas Wilson. Said Wilson is the rise of 6 feet high, middle aged, had large whiskers when he left, pale eyes, one eye weak and runs water, hair brown. He may make for a free State.

I will give for the apprehension of said Negros, Fifty Dollars; and Fifty Dollars for the thief.

VALENTINE ATKINSON.

Chester C. H., S. C., Oct. 27, 1855.

Leather! Leather! Leather!!

A good supply of hemlock and oak tanned sole Leather, upper Leather, calf skins, shoe pegs, shoe thread, &c., for sale as low as any one in this country can offer. by

SMITH, BAIRD & VANCE.

Dec. 21, 1854.

Saddlery, of every description, and sole and upper Leather, may be had at low rates of SMITH & M'DOWELL

Calendar for 1856.

Mon.,	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JAN'RY			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
FEB'RY						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	
MARCH							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
APRIL			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			
MAY					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JUNE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					
JULY			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31		
AUGUST						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
SEPTEM'		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30				
OCT'BER				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
NOV'BER							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
DEC'BER		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31.			

The Perplexed Housekeeper.

BY MRS. F. D. GAGE.

I wish I had a dozen pairs
Of hands this very minute,
I'd soon put all things to rights—
The very deuce is in it.

Here's a big washing to be done,
One pair of hands to do it,
Sheets, shirts and stockings, coats and pants,
How will I e'er get through it?

Dinner to get for six or more,
No loaf left o'er from Sunday;
And baby cross as he can live—
He's always so on Monday.

And there's the cream, 'tis getting sour,
And must forthwith be churning,
And there's Bob wants a button on—
Which way shall I be turning?

'Tis time the meat was in the pot,
The bread was worked for baking,
The clothes were taken from the boil—
Oh, dear! the baby's waking.

Hush, baby, dear! there, hush-sh-she!
I wish he'd sleep a little,
Till I could run and get some wood
To hurry up the kettle.

Oh dear! if P——— comes home,
And finds things in this bother,
He'll just begin, and tell me all
About his tidy mother.

How nice her kitchen used to be,
Her dinner always ready
Exactly when the noon bell rung—
Hush, hush! dear little Freddy.

And then will come some hasty word,
Right out before I'm thinking—
They say that hasty words from wives
Set sober men to drinking.

Now isn't that a great idea,
That men should take to sinning
Because a weary, half-sick wife,
Can't always smile so *winning*.

When I was young, I used to earn
My living without trouble,
Had clothes and pocket money, too,
And hours of leisure double.

I never dreamed of such a fate,
When I, *a-lass*, was courted—
Wife, mother, uurse, seamstress, cook,
housekeeper, chambermaid, laundress,
dairy woman, and scrub generally—
doing the work of six—
For the sake of being supported!

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE

TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS.

December 31, 1855.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Ropresentatives:

The constitution of the United States provides that Congress shall assemble annually on the first Monday of December, and it has been usual for the President to make no communication of a public character to the Senate and House of Representatives until advised of their readiness to receive it. I have deferred to this usage until the close of the first month of the session, but my convictions of duty will not permit me longer to postpone the discharge of the obligation enjoined by the constitution upon the President, "to give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

It is matter of congratulation that the republic is tranquilly advancing in a career of prosperity and peace.

Whilst relations of amity continue to exist between the United States and all foreign powers, with some of them grave questions are depending, which may require the consideration of Congress.

Of such questions, the most important is that which has arisen out of the negotiations with Great Britain in reference to Central America.

By the convention concluded between the two governments on the 19th of April, 1850, both parties covenanted, that "neither will ever" "occupy, or fortify, or colonize, or assume or exercise any dominion over, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America."

It was the undoubted understanding of the United States, in making this treaty, that all the present States of the former republic of Central America, and the territory of each, would thenceforth enjoy complete independence; and that both contracting parties engaged equally, and to the same extent, for the present and for the future, that if either then had any claim of right in Central America, such claim, and all occupation or authority under it, were unreservedly relinquished by the stipulations of the convention; and that no dominion was thereafter to be exercised or assumed in any part of Central America by Great Britain or the United States.

This government consented to restrictions in regard to a region of country, wherein we had specific and peculiar interests, only upon the conviction that the like restrictions were in the same sense obligatory on Great Britain. But for this understanding of the force and effect of the convention, it would never have been concluded by us.

So clear was this understanding on the part of the United States, that, in correspondence contemporaneous with the ratification of the convention, it was distinctly expressed, that the mutual covenants of non-occupation were not intended to apply to the British establishment at the Balize. This qualification is to be ascribed to the fact, that in virtue of successive treaties with previous sovereigns of the country, Great Britain had obtained a concession of the right to cut mahogany or dye-woods at the Balize, but with positive exclusion of all domain or sovereignty; and thus it confirms the natural construction and understood import of the treaty as to all the rest of the region to which the stipulations applied.

It, however, became apparent, at an early day after entering upon the discharge of my present functions, that Great Britain still continued in the exercise or assertion of large authority in all that part of Central America commonly called the Mosquito coast, and covering the entire length of the State of Nicaragua and a part of Costa Rica; that she regarded the Balize as her absolute domain, and was gradually extending its limits at the expense of the State of Honduras; and that she had formally colonized a considerable insular group known as the Bay Islands, and belonging, of right to that State.

All these acts or pretensions of Great Britain, being contrary to the rights of the States of Central America, and to the manifest tenor of her stipulations with the United States, as understood by this government, have been made the subject of negotiation through the American minister in London. I transmit herewith the instructions to him on the subject, and the correspondence between him and the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, by which you will perceive that the two governments differ widely and irreconcileably as to the construction of the convention, and its effect on their respective relations to Central America.

Great Britain so construes the convention as to maintain unchanged all her previous pretensions over the Mosquito coast, and in different parts of Central America. The pretensions, as to the Mosquito coast, are founded on the assumption of political relation between Great Britain and the remnant of a tribe of Indians on that coast, entered into at a time when the whole country was a colonial possession of Spain. It cannot be successfully controverted that, by the public law of Europe and America, no possible act of such Indians, or their predecessors, could confer on Great Britain any political rights.

Great Britain does not allege the assent of Spain as the origin of her claims on the Mosquito coast. She has, on the contrary, by repeated and successive treaties, renounced and relinquished all pretensions of her own, and recognised the full and sovereign rights of Spain in the most unequivocal terms. Yet these pretensions, so without solid foundation in the beginning, and thus repeatedly abjured, were, at a recent period, revived by Great Britain against the Central American States, the legitimate successors to all the ancient jurisdiction of Spain in that region. They were first applied only to a defined part of the coast of Nicaragua, afterwards to the whole of its Atlantic coast, and lastly to a part of the coast of Costa Rica, and they are now reasserted to this extent, notwithstanding engagements to the United States.

On the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the interference of Great Britain, though exerted at one time in the form of military occupation of the port of San Juan del Norte, then in the peaceful possession of the appropriate authorities of the Central American States, is now presented by her as the rightful exercise of a protectorship over the Musquito tribe of Indians.

But the establishment at the Balize, now reaching far beyond its treaty limits into the State of Honduras, and that of the Bay Islands, appertaining of right to the same State, are as distinctly colonial governments as those of Jamaica or Canada, and therefore contrary to the very letter as well as the spirit of the convention with the United States, as it was at the time of ratification, and now is, understood by this government.

The interpretation which the British government, thus in assertion and act, persists in ascribing to the convention, entirely changes its character. While it holds us to all our obligations, it in a great measure releases Great Britain from those which constituted the consideration of this government for entering into the convention. It is impossible, in my judgment, for the United States to acquiesce in such a construction of the respective relations of the two governments to Central America.

To a renewed call by this government upon Great Britain, to abide by, and carry into effect, the stipulations of the convention according to its obvious import, by withdrawing from the possession or colonization of portions of the Central American States of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, the British government has at length replied, affirming that the operation of the treaty is prospective only, and did not require Great Britain to abandon or contract any possessions held by her in Central America at the date of its conclusion.

This reply substitutes a partial issue, in the place of the general one presented by the United States. The British government passes over the question of the rights of Great Britain, real or supposed, in Central America, and assumes that she had such rights at the date of the treaty, and that those rights comprehended the protectorship of the Mosquito Indians, the extended jurisdiction and limits of the Balize, and the colony of the Bay Islands, and thereupon proceeds by implication to infer, that, if the stipulations of the treaty be merely future in effect, Great Britain may still continue to hold the contested portions of Central America. The United States cannot admit either the inference or the premises.—We steadily deny, that, at the date of the treaty, Great Britain had any possessions there, other than the limited and peculiar establishment at the Balize, and maintain that, if she had any, they were surrendered by the convention.

This government, recognising the obligations of the treaty, has of course desired to see it executed in good faith by both parties, and in the discussion, therefore, has not looked to rights, which we might assert, independently of the treaty, in consideration of our geographical position and of other circumstances, which create for us relations to the Central American States different from those of any government of Europe.

The British government, in its last communication, although well knowing the views of the United States, still declares that it sees no reason why a conciliatory spirit may not enable the two governments to overcome all obstacles to a satisfactory adjustment of the subject.

Assured of the correctness of the construction of the treaty constantly adhered to by this government, and resolved to insist on the rights of the United States, yet actuated also by the same desire, which is avowed by the British government, to remove all causes of serious misunderstanding between two nations associated by so many ties of interest and kindred, it has appeared to me proper not to consider an amicable solution of the controversy hopeless.

There is, however, reason to apprehend, that, with Great Britain in the actual occupation of the disputed territories, and the treaty therefore practically null, so far as regards our rights, this international difficulty cannot long remain undetermined, without involving in serious danger the friendly relations, which it is the interest as well as the duty of both countries to cherish and preserve. It will afford me sincere gratification, if future efforts shall result in the success anticipated heretofore with more confidence than the aspect of the case permits me now to entertain.

One other subject of discussion between the United States and Great Britain has grown out of the attempt, which the exigencies of the war in which she is engaged with Russia induced her to make, to draw recruits from the United States.

It is the traditional and settled policy of the United States to maintain impartial neutrality during the wars which from time to time occur among the great powers of the world. Performing all the duties of neutrality towards the respective belligerent States, we may reasonably expect them not to interfere with our lawful enjoyment of its benefits. Notwithstanding the existence of such hostilities, our citizens retain the individual right to continue all their accustomed pursuits, by land or by sea, at home or abroad, subject only to such restrictions in this relation as the laws of war, the usage of nations, or special treaties, may impose; and it is our sovereign right that our territory and jurisdiction shall not be invaded by either of the belligerent parties, for the transit of their armies, the operations of their fleets, the levy of troops for their service, the fitting out of cruisers by or against either, or any other act or incident of war. And these undeniable rights of neutrality, individual and national, the United States will under no cir-

cumstances surrender.

In pursuance of this policy, the laws of the United States do not forbid their citizens to sell to either of the belligerent powers, articles contraband of war, or take munitions of war or soldiers on board their private ships for transportation; and although, in so doing, the individual citizen exposes his property or person to some of the hazards of war, his acts do not involve any breach of national neutrality, nor of themselves implicate the government. Thus, during the progress of the present war in Europe, our citizens have, without national responsibility therefor, sold gunpowder and arms to all buyers, regardless of the destination of those articles. Our merchantmen have been, and still continue to be, largely employed by Great Britain and by France, in transporting troops, provisions, and munitions of war to the principal seat of military operations, and in bringing home their sick and wounded soldiers; but such use of our mercantile marine is not interdicted either by the international or by our municipal law, and therefore does not compromit our neutral relations with Russia.

But our municipal law, in accordance with the law of nations, peremptorily forbids not only foreigners, but our own citizens, to fit out within the United States a vessel to commit hostilities against any State with which the United States are at peace, or to increase the force of any foreign armed vessel intended for such hostilities against a friendly State.

Whatever concern may have been felt by either of the belligerent powers lest private armed cruisers or other vessels in the service of one might be fitted out in the ports of this country to depredate on the property of the other, all such fears have proved to be utterly groundless. Our citizens have been withheld from any such act or purpose by good faith and by respect for the law.

While the laws of the Union are thus peremptory in their prohibition of the equipment or armament of belligerent cruisers in our ports, they provide not less absolutely that no person shall, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States, enlist or enter himself, or hire or retain another person to enlist or enter himself, or to go beyond the limits or jurisdiction of the United States with intent to be enlisted or entered, in the service of any foreign State, either as a soldier, or as a marine or seaman on board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer. And these enactments are also in strict conformity with the law of nations, which declares that no State has the right to raise troops for land or sea service in another State without its consent, and that, whether forbidden by the municipal law or not, the very attempt to do it without such consent is an attack on the national sovereignty.

Such being the public rights and the municipal law of the United States, no solicitude on the subject was entertained by this government, when, a year since, the British Parliament passed an act to provide for the enlistment of foreigners in the military service of Great Britain. Nothing on the face of the act, or in its public history, indicated that the British government proposed to attempt recruitment in the United States; nor did it ever give intimation of such intention to this government. It was matter of surprise, therefore, to find, subsequently, that the engagement of persons within the United States to proceed to Halifax, in the British province of Nova Scotia, and there enlist in the service of Great Britain, was going on extensively, with little or no disguise. Ordinary legal steps were immediately taken to arrest and punish parties concerned, and so put an end to acts infringing the municipal law and derogatory to our sovereignty. Meanwhile suitable representations on the subject were addressed to the British government.

Thereupon it became known, by the admission of the British government itself, that the attempt to draw recruits from this country originated with it, or at least had its approval and sanction; but it also appeared that the public agents engaged in it had "stringent instructions" not to violate the municipal law of the United States.

It is difficult to understand how it should have been supposed that troops could be raised here by Great Brittain, without violation of the municipal law. The unmistakeable object of the law was to prevent every such act, which, if performed, must be either in violation of the law, or in studied evasion of it; and, in either alternative, the act done would be alike injurious to the United States.

In the meantime, the matter acquired additional importance by the recruitments in the United States not being discontinued, and the disclosure of the fact that they were prosecuted upon a systematic plan devised by official authority; that recruiting rendezvous had been opened in our principal cities, and depots for the reception of recruits established on our frontier, and the whole business conducted under the supervision and by the regular co-operation of British officers, civil and military, some in the North American provinces, and some in the United States. The complicity of those officers in an undertaking which could only be accomplished by defying our laws, throwing suspicion over our attitude of neutrality, and disregarding our territorial rights, is conclusively proved by the evidence elicited on the trial of such of their agents as have been apprehended and convicted. Some of the officers thus implicated are of high official position, and many of them beyond our jurisdiction, so that legal proceedings could not reach the source of the mischief.

These considerations, and the fact that the cause of complaint was not a mere casual occurrence, but a deliberate design, entered upon with full knowledge of our laws and national policy, and conducted by responsible public functionaries, impelled me to present the case to the British government, in order to secure, not only a cessation of the wrong, but its reparation. The subject is still under discussion, the result of which will be communicated to you in due time.

I repeat the recommendation submitted to the last Congress, that provision be made for the appointment of a commissioner, in connexion with Great Britain, to survey and establish the boundary line which divides the territory of Washington from the contiguous British possessions. By reason of the extent and importance of the country in dispute, there has been imminent danger of collision between the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States, including their respective authorities, in that quarter. The prospect of a speedy arrangement has contributed hitherto to induce on both sides forbearance to assert by force what each claims as a right. Continuance of delay on the part of the two governments to act in the matter will increase the dangers and difficulties of the controversy.

Misunderstanding exists as to the extent, character, and value of the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the property of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, reserved in our treaty with Great Britain relative to the Territory of Oregon. I have reason to believe that a cession of the rights of both companies to the United States, which would be the readiest means of terminating all questions, can be obtained on reasonable terms; and, with a view to this end, I present the subject to the attention of Congress.

The colony of Newfoundland having enacted the laws required by the treaty of the 5th of June, 1854, is now placed on the same footing, in respect to commercial intercourse with the United States, as the other British North American provinces.

The commission which that treaty contemplated, for determining the rights of fishery in rivers and mouths of rivers on the coasts of the United States and the British North American provinces, has been organized, and has commenced its labors: to complete which, there is needed further appropriations for the service of another season.

In pursuance of the authority conferred by a resolution of the Senate of the United States, passed on the 3d of March last, notice was given to Denmark, on the 14th day of April, of the intention of this government to avail itself of the stipulation of the subsisting convention of friendship, commerce, and navigation between that Kingdom and the United States, whereby either party might, after ten years, terminate the same at the expiration of one year from the date of notice for that purpose.

The considerations which led me to call the attention of Congress to that convention, and induced the Senate to adopt the resolution referred to, still continue in full force. The convention contains an article which, although it does not directly engage the United States to submit to the imposition of tolls on the vessels and cargoes of Americans passing into or from the Baltic sea, during the continuance of the treaty, yet may, by possibility, be construed as implying such submission. The exaction of those tolls not being justified by any principle of international law, it became the right and duty of the United States to relieve themselves from the implication of engagement on the subject, so as to be perfectly free to act in the premises in such way as their public interests and honor shall demand.

I remain of the opinion that the United States ought not to submit to the payment of the Sound dues, not so much because of their amount, which is a secondary matter, but because it is in effect the recognition of the right of Denmark to treat one of the great maritime highways of nations as a close sea, and prevent the navigation of it as a privilege, for which tribute may be imposed upon those who have occasion to use it.

This government, on a former occasion not unlike the present, signalized its determination to maintain the freedom of the seas, and of the great natural channels of navigation.—The Barbary States had, for a long time, coerced the payment of tribute from all nations whose ships frequented the Mediterranean.—To the last demand of such payment made by them, the United States, although suffering less by their depredations than many other nations, returned the explicit answer, that we preferred war to tribute, and thus opened the way to the relief of the commerce of the world from an ignominious tax, so long submitted to by the more powerful nations of Europe.

If the manner of payment of the Sound dues differ from that of the tribute formerly conceded to the Barbary States, still their exaction by Denmark has no better foundation in right. Each was, in its origin, nothing but a tax on a common natural right, extorted by those who were at that time able to obstruct the free and secure enjoyment of it, but who no longer possess that power.

Denmark, while resisting our assertion of the freedom of the Baltic Sound and Belts, has indicated a readiness to make some new arrangement on the subject, and has invited the governments interested, including the United States, to be represented in a convention to assemble for the purpose of receiving and considering a proposition which she intends to submit for the capitalization of the Sound dues, and the distribution of the sum to be paid as commutation among the governments according to the respective proportions of their maratime commerce to and from the Baltic. I have declined in behalf of the United States to accept this invitation, for two cogent reasons. One is, that Denmark does not offer to submit to the convention the question of her right to levy the Sound dues.—The second is, that if the convention were allowed to take cognizance of that particular question, still it would not be competent to deal with the great international principle involved which affects the right in other cases of navigation and commercial freedom, as well as that of access to the Baltic. Above all, by the express terms of the proposition it is contemplated that the consideration of the Sound dues shall be commingled with, and made subordinate to, a matter wholly extraneous—the balance of power among the governments of Europe.

While, however, rejecting this proposition, and insisting on the right of free transit into and from the Baltic, I have expressed to Denmark a willingness, on the part of the United States, to share liberally with other powers in compensating her for any advantages which commerce shall hereafter derive from expenditures made by her for the improvement and safety of the navigation of the Sound or Belts.

I lay before you, herewith, sundry documents on the subject, in which my views are more fully disclosed. Should no satisfactory arrangement be soon concluded, I shall again call your attention to the subject, with recommendation of such measures as may appear to be required in order to assert and secure the rights of the United States, so far as they are affected by the pretensions of Denmark.

I announce with much gratification, that, since the adjournment of the last Congress, the question, then existing between this government and that of France, respecting the French consul at San Francisco, has been satisfactorily determined, and that the relations of the two governments continue to be of the most friendly nature.

A question also which has been pending for several years between the United States and the Kingdom of Greece, growing out of the sequestration, by public authorities of that country, of property belonging to the present American consul at Athens, and which had been the subject of very earnest discussion heretofore, has recently been settled to the satisfaction of the party interested and of both governments.

With Spain peaceful relations are still maintained, and some progress has been made in securing the redress of wrongs complained of by this government. Spain has not only disavowed and disapproved the conduct of the officers who illegally seized and detained the steamer Black Warrior at Havana, but has also paid the sum claimed as indemnity for the loss thereby inflicted on citizens of the United States.

In consequence of a destructive hurricane which visited Cuba in 1844, the supreme authority of that island issued a decree, permitting the importation, for the period of six months, of certain building materials and provisions free of duty, but revoked it when about half the period only had elapsed, to the injury of citizens of the United States, who had proceeded to act on the faith of that decree.—The Spanish government refused indemnification to the parties aggrieved until recently, when it was assented to, payment being promised to be made so soon as the amount due can be ascertained.

Satisfaction claimed for the arrest and search of the steamer El Dorado has not yet been accorded, but there is reason to believe that it will be, and that case, with others, continues to be urged on the attention of the Spanish government. I do not abandon the hope of concluding with Spain some general arrangement, which, if it do not wholly prevent the recurrence of difficulties in Cuba, will render them less frequent, and whenever they shall occur facilitate their more speedy settlement.

The interposition of this government has been invoked by many of its citizens, on account of injuries done to their persons and property, for which the Mexican republic is responsible. The unhappy situation of that country, for some time past, has not allowed its government to give due consideration to claims of private reparation, and has appeared to call for and justify some forbearance in such matters on the part of this government. But if the revolutionary movements which have lately occurred in that republic end in the organization of a stable government, urgent appeals to its justice will then be made, and, it may be hoped, with success, for the redress of all complaints of our citizens.

In regard to the American republics, which, from their proximity and other considerations, have peculiar relations to this government, while it has been my constant aim strictly to observe all the obligations of political friendship and of good neighborhood, obstacles to this have arisen in some of them, from their own insufficient power to check lawless irruptions, which in effect throws most of the task on the United States. Thus it is that the distracted internal condition of the State of Nicaragua has made it incumbent on me to appeal to the good faith of our citizens to abstain from unlawful intervention in its affairs, and to adopt preventive measures to the same end, which, on a similar occasion, had the best results in securing the peace of the Mexican States of Sonora and Lower California.

Since the last session of Congress a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, and for the surrender of fugitive criminals, with the kingdom of the Two Sicilies; a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with Nicaragua; and a convention of commercial reciprocity with the Hawaiian kingdom, have been negotiated. The latter kingdom and the State of Nicaragua have also acceded to a declaration recognising, as international rights, the principles contained in the convention between the United States and Russia, of July 22, 1854. These treaties and conventions will be laid before the Senate for ratification.

The statements made in my last annual message, respecting the anticipated receipts and expenditures of the treasury, have been substantially verified.

It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the receipts during the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1855, from all sources, were sixty-five million three thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars; and that the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to fifty-six million three hundred and sixty-five thousand three hundred and ninety three dollars. During the same period, the payments made in redemption of the public debt, including interest and premium, amounted to nine million eight hundred and forty four thousand five hundred and twenty eight dollars.

The balance in the treasury at the beginning of the present fiscal year, July 1, 1855, was eighteen million nine hundred and thirty one thousand nine hundred and seventy six dollars; the receipts for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts for the remaining three quarters, amount, together, to sixty seven million nine hundred and eighteen thousand seven hundred and thirty four dollars; thus affording in all, as the available resources of the current fiscal year, the sum of eighty six million eight hundred and fifty six thousand seven hundred and ten dollars.

If to the actual expenditures of the first quarter of the current fiscal year, be added the probable expenditures for the remaining three quarters, as estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury, the sum total will be seventy one million two hundred and twenty six thousand eight hundred and forty six dollars, thereby leaving an estimated balance in the treasury on July 1, 1856, of fifteen million six hundred and twenty three thousand eight hundred and sixty three dollars and forty one cents.

If the above estimated expenditures of the present fiscal year are included three million dollars to meet the last intsalment of the ten millions provided for in the late treaty with Mexico, and seven million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars appropriated on account of the debt due to Texas; which two sums make an aggregate amount of ten million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and reduce the expenditures, actual or estimated, for ordinary objects of the year, to the sum of sixty million four hundred and seventy six thousand dollars.

The amount of the public debt, at the commencement of the present fiscal year, was forty million five hundred and eighty three thousand six hundred and thirty one dollars, and, deduction being made of subsequent payments, the whole public debt of the federal government remaining at this time is less than forty million dollars.

The remnant of certain other goverment stocks, amounting to two hundred and forty three thousand dollars, referred to in my last message as outstanding, has since been paid.

I am fully persuaded that it would be difficult to devise a system superior to that by which the fiscal business of the government is now conducted. Notwithstanding the great number of public agents of collection and disbursement, it is believed that the checks and guards provided, including the requirement of monthly returns, render it scarcely possible for any considerable fraud on the part of those agents, or neglect involving hazard of serious public loss, to escape detection. I renew, however, the recommendation, heretofore made by me, of the enactment of a law declaring it felony on the part of public officers to insert false entries in their books of record or account, or to make false returns, and also requiring them, on the termination of their service, to deliver to their successors all books, records, and other objects of a public nature in their custody.

Derived as our public revenue is, in chief part, from duties on imports, its magnitude affords gratifying evidence of the prosperity, not only of our commerce, but of the other great interests upon which that depends.

The principle that all moneys not required for the current expenses of the government should remain for active employment in the hands of the people, and the conspicuous fact that the annual revenue from all sources exceeds, by many millions of dollars, the amount needed for a prudent and economical administration of public affairs, cannot fail to suggest the propriety of an early revision and reduction of the tariff of duties on imports. It is now so generally conceded that the purpose of revenue alone justify the imposition of duties on imports, that, in re-adjusting the impost tables and schedules, which unquestionably require essential modifications, a departure from the principles of the present tariff is not anticipated.

The army during the past year has been actively engaged in defending the Indian frontier, the state of the service permitting but few and small garrisons in our permanent fortications. The additional regiments authorized at the last session of Congress have been recruited and organized, and a large portion of the troops have already been to the field. All the duties which devolve on the military establishment have been satisfactorily performed, and the dangers and privations incident to the character of the service required of our troops have furnished additional evidence of their courage, zeal, and capacity to meet any requisition which their country may make upon them. For the details of the military operations, the distribution of the troops, and additional provisions required for the military service, I refer to the report of the Secretary of War and the accompanying documents.

Experience gathered from events which have transpired since my annual message has but served to confirm the opinion then expressed, of the propriety of making provision, by a retired list, for disabled officers and for increased compensation to the officers retained on the list for active duty. All the reasons which existed when these measures were recommended on former occasions continue without modification, except so far as circumstances have given to some of them additional force.

The recommendations heretofore made for a partial reorganization of the army are also renewed. The thorough elementary education given to those officers who commence their service with the grade of cadet, qualifies them, to a considerable extent, to perform the duties of every arm of the service; but to give the highest efficiency to artillery requires the practice and special study of many years; and it is not, therefore, believed to be advisable to maintain, in time of peace, a larger force of that arm than can be usually employed in the duties appertaining to the service of field and siege artillery. The duties of the staff in all its various branches belong to the movements of troops, and the efficiency of an army in the field would materially depend upon the ability with which those duties are discharged. It is not, as in the case of the artillery, a speciality, but requires, also, an intimate knowledge of the duties of an officer of the line, and it is not doubted that, to complete the education of an officer for either the line or the general staff, it is desirable that he shall have served in both. With this view, it was recommended on a former occasion, that the duties of the staff should be mainly performed by details from the line; and, with conviction of the advantages which would result from such a change, it is again presented for the consideration of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, herewith submitted, exhibits in full the naval operations of the past year, together with the present condition of the service, and it makes suggestions of further legislation, to which your attention is invited.

The construction of the six steam frigates, for which appropriations were made by the last Congress, has proceeded in the most satisfactory manner, and with such expedition as to warrant the belief that they will be ready for service early in the coming spring. Important as this addition to our naval force is, it still remains inadequate to the contingent exigencies of the protection of the extensive sea coast and vast commercial interests of the United States. In view of this fact, and of the acknowledged wisdom of the policy of a gradual and systematic increase of the navy, an appropriation is recommended for the construction of six sloops of war.

In regard to the steps taken in execution of the act of Congress to promote the efficiency of the navy, it is unnecessary for me to say more than to express entire concurrence in the observations on that subject presented by the Secretary in his report.

It will be perceived, by the report of the Postmaster General, that the gross expenditure of the department for the last fiscal year was nine million nine hundred and sixty eight thousand three hundred and forty two dollars, and the gross receipts seven million three hundred and forty two thousand one hundred and thirty six dollars—making an excess of expenditure over receipts of two million six hundred and twenty six thousand two hundred and six dollars; and that the cost of mail transportation during that year was six hundred and seventy four thousand nine hundred and fifty two dollars greater than the previous year. Much of the heavy expenditures to which the treasury is thus subjected, is to be ascribed to the large quantity of printed matter conveyed by the mails, either franked, or liable to no postage by law, or to very low rates of postage compared with that charged on letters, and to the great cost of mail service on railroads and by ocean steamers. The suggestions of the Postmaster General on the subject deserve the consideration of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior will engage your attention, as well for useful suggestions it contains, as for the interest and importance of the subjects to which they refer.

The aggregate amount of public land sold during the last fiscal year, located with military scrip or land warrants, taken up under grants for roads, and selected as swamp lands by States, is twenty four million five hundred and fifty seven thousand four hundred and nine acres; of which the portion sold was fifteen million seven hundred and twenty nine thousand five hundred and twenty four acres, yielding in receipts the sum of eleven million four hundred and eighty five thousand three hundred and eighty dollars. In the same period of time, eight million seven hundred and twenty three thousand eight hundred and fifty four acres; but, in consideration of the quantity already subject to entry, no additional tracts have been brought into market.

The peculiar relation of the general government to the District of Columbia renders it proper to commend to your care not only its material, but also its moral interests, including education, more especially in those parts of the District outside of the cities of Washington and Georgetown.

The commissioners appointed to revise and codify the laws of the District have made such progress in the performance of their task, as to insure its completion in the time prescribed by the act of Congress.

Information has recently been received, that the peace of the settlements in the Territories of Oregon and Washington is disturbed by hostilities on the part of the Indians, with indications of extensive combinations of a hostile character among the tribes in that quarter, the more serious in their possible effect by reason of the undetermined foreign interests existing in those Territories, to which your attention has already been especially invited. Efficient measures have been taken, which, it is believed, will restore quiet, and afford protection to our citizens.

In the Territory of Kansas, there have been acts prejudical to good order, but as yet none have occurred under circumstances to justify the interposition of the federal Executive. That could only be in case of obstruction to federal law, or of organized resistance to territorial law, assuming the character of insurrection, which, if it should occur, it would be my duty promptly to overcome and suppress. I cherish the hope, however, that the occurrence of any such untoward event will be prevented by the sound sense of the people of the Territory, who, by its organic law, possessing the right to determine their own domestic institutions, are entitled, while deporting themselves peacefully, to the free exercise of that right, and must be protected in the enjoyment of it, without interference on the part of the citizens of any of the States.

The southern boundary line of this Territory has never been surveyed and established. The rapidly-extending settlements in that region, and the fact that the main route between Independence, in the State of Missouri, and New Mexico, is contiguous in this line, suggest the probability that embarrassing questions of jurisdiction may consequently arise. For these and other considerations, I commend the subject to your early attention.

I have thus passed in review the general state of the Union, including such particular concerns of the federal government, whether of domestic or foreign relation, as it appeared to me desirable and useful to the special notice of Congress. Unlike the great states of Europe and Asia, and many of those of America, the United States are wasting their strength neither in foreign war nor domestic strife. Whatever of discontent or public dissatisfaction exists, is attributable to the imperfections of human nature, or is incident to all governments, however perfect, which human wisdom can devise. Such subjects of political agitation as occupy the public mind, consist, to a great extent, of exaggeration of inevitable evils, or over zeal in social improvement, or mere imagination of grievance, having but remote connexion with any of the constitutional functions or duties of the federal government. To whatever extent these questions exhibit a tendency menacing to the stability of the constitution, or the integrity of the Union, and no farther, they demand the consideration of the Executive, and require to be presented by him to Congress.

Before the Thirteen Colonies became a confederation of independent States, they were associated only by community of transatlantic origin, by geopraphical position, and by the mutual tie of common dependance on Great Britain. When that tie was sundered, they severally assumed the powers and rights of absolute self-government. The municipal and social institutions of each, its laws of property and of personal relation, even its political organization, were such only as each one chose to establish, wholly without interference from any other. In the language of the Declaration of Independence, each State had "full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do." The several colonies differed in climate, in soil, in natural productions, in religion, in systems of education, in legislation, and in the forms of political administration; and they continued to differ in these respects when they voluntarily allied themselves, as States, to carry on the war of the revolution.

The object of that war was to disenthral the United Colonies from foreign rule, which had proved to be oppressive, and to separate them permanently from the mother country: the political result was the foundation of a federal republic of the free white men of the colonies, constituted, as they were, in distinct and reciprocally independent State governments. As for the subject races, whether Indian or African, the wise and brave statesmen of that day, being engaged in no extravagant scheme of social change, left them as they were, and thus preserved themselves and their posterity from the anarchy and the ever-recurring civil wars which have prevailed in other revolutionized European colonies of America.

When the confederated States found it convenient to modify the conditions of their association, by giving to the general government direct access, in some respects, to the people of the States, instead of confining it to action on the States as such, they proceeded to frame the existing constitution, adhering steadily to one guiding thought, which was, to delegate only such power as was necessary and proper to the execution of specific purposes or, in other words, to retain as much as possible, consistently with those purposes, of the independent powers of the individual States. For objects of common defence and security, they intrusted to the general government certain carefully-defined functions, leaving all others as the undelegated rights of the separate independent sovereignties.

Such is the constitutional theory of our government, the practical observance of which has carried us, and us alone, among modern republics, through nearly three generations of time without the cost of one drop of blood shed in civil war. With freedom and concert of action, it has enabled us to contend successfully on the battle field against foreign foes, has elevated the feeble colonies into powerful States, and has raised our industrial productions, and our commerce which transports them, to the level of the richest and the greatest nations of Europe. And the admirable adaptation of our political institutions to their objects, combining local self-government with aggregate strength, has established the practicability of a government like ours to cover a continent with confederate States.

The Congress of the United States is, in effect, that congress of sovereignties, which good men in the Old World have sought for, but could never attain, and which imparts to America an exemption from the mutable leagues for common action, from the wars, the mutual invasions, and vague aspirations after the balance of power, which convulse, from time to time, the governments of Europe.—Our co-operative action rests in the conditions of permanent confederation prescribed by the constitution. Our balance of power is in the separate reserved rights of the States, and their equal representation in the Senate.—That independent sovereignty in every one of the States, with its reserved rights of local self-government assured to each by their co-equal power in the Senate, was the fundamental condition of the constitution. Without it the Union would never have existed.—However desirous the larger States might be to re-organize the government so as to give to their population its proportionate weight in the common counsels, they knew it was impossible, unless they conceded to the smaller ones authority to excercise at least a negative influence on all the measures of the government, whether legislative or executive, through their equal representation in the Senate. Indeed, the larger States themselves could not have failed to perceive, that the same power was equally necessary to them, for the security of their own domestic interests against the aggregate force of the general government. In a word, the original States went into this permanent league on the agreed premises, of exerting their common strength for the defence of the whole, and of all its parts; but of utterly excluding all capability of reciprocal aggression. Each solemnly bound itself to all the others, neither to undertake, nor permit, any encroachment upon, or intermeddling with, another's reserved rights.

Where it was deemed expedient, particular rights of the States were expressly guaranticd by the constitution; but, in all things besides, these rights were guarded by the limitation of the powers granted, and by express reservation of all powers not granted, in the compact of union. Thus, the great power of taxation was limited to purposes of common defence and general welfare, excluding objects appertaining to the local legislation of the several States; and those purposes of genal welfare and common defence were afterwards defined by specific enumeration, as being matters only of corelation between the States themselves, or between them and foreign governments, which, because of their common and general nature, could not be left to the separate control of each State.

Of the circumstances of local condition, interest, and rights, in which a portion of the States, constituting one great section of the Union, differed from the rest, and from another section, the most important was the peculiarity of a larger relative colored population in the southern than in the northern States.

A population of this class, held in subjection, existed in nearly all the States, but was more numerous and of more serious concernment in the South than in the North, on account of natural differences of climate and production; and it was foreseen that, for the same reasons, while this population would diminish, and sooner or later, cease to exist, in some States, it mingt increase in others. The peculiar character and magnitude of this question of local rights, not in material relations only, but still more in social ones, caused it to enter into the special stipulations of the constitution.

Hence, while the general government, as well by the enumerated powers granted to it, as by those not enumerated, and therefore refused to it, was forbidden to touch this matter in the sense of attack or offence, it was placed under the general safeguard of the Union, in the sense of defence against either invasion or domestic violence, like all other local interests of the several States. Each State expressly stipulated, as well for itself as for each and all of its citizens, and every citizen of each State became solemnly bound by his allegiance to the constitution, that any person held to service or labor in one State, escaping into another, should not, in consequence of any law or regulation thereof, be discharged from such service or labor, but should be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor might be due by the laws of his State.

Thus, and thus only, by the reciprocal guaranty of all the rights of every State against interference on the part of another, was the present form of government established by our fathers and transmitted to us; and by no other means is it possible for it to exist. If one State ceases to respect the rights of another, and obtrusively intermeddles with its local interests—if a portion of the States assume to impose their institutions on the others, or refuse to fulfil their obligations to them—we are no longer united friendly States, but distracted, hostile ones, with little capacity left of common advantage, but abundant means of reciprocal injury and mischief.

Practically, it is immaterial whether aggressive interference between the States, or or deliberate refusal on the part of any one of them to comply with constitutional obligations, arise from erroneous conviction or blind prejudice, whether it be perpetrated by direction or indirection. In either case, it is full of threat and of danger to the durability of the Union.

Placed in the office of Chief Magistrate as the executive agent of the whole country, bound to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and especially enjoined by the con-

stitution to give information to Congress on the state of the Union, it would be palpable neglect of duty on my part to pass over a subject like this, which, beyond all things, at the present time, vitally concerns individual and public security.

It has been matter of painful regret to see States, conspicuous for their services in founding this republic, and especially sharing its advantages; disregard their constitutional obligations to it. Although conscious of their inability to heal admitted and palpable social evils of their own, and which are completely within their jurisdiction, they engage in the offensive and hopeless undertaking of reforming the domestic institutions of other States wholly beyond their control and authority. In the vain pursuit of ends, by them entirely unattainable, and which they may not legally attempt to compass, they peril the very existence of the constitution, and all the countless benefits which it has conferred. While the people of southern States confine their attention to their own affairs, not presuming officially to intermeddle with the social institutions of the northern States, too many of the latter are permanently organized in associations to inflict injury on the former, by wrongful acts, which would be cause of war as between foreign powers, and only fail to be such in our system, because perpetrated under cover of the Union.

Is it possible to present this subject as truth and the occasion require, without noticing the reiterated, but groundless allegation, that the South has persistently asserted claims and obtained advantages in the practical administration of the general government, to the prejudice of the North, and in which the latter has acquiesced. That is, the States which either promote or tolerate attacks on the rights of persons and of property in other States, to disguise their own injustice, pretend or imagine, and constantly aver, that they, whose constitutional rights are thus systematically assailed, are themselves the aggressors. At the present time, this imputed aggression, resting as it does, only in the vague declamatory charges of political agitators, resolves itself into misapprehension, or misinterpretation, of the principles and facts of the political organization of the new Territories of the United States.

What is the voice of history? When the ordinance, which provided for the government of the territory northwest of the river Ohio, and for its sub-division into new States, was adopted in the Congress of the confederation, it is not to be supposed that the question of future relative power, as between the States which retained, and those which did not retain, a numerous colored population, escaped notice, or failed to be considered. And yet the concession of that vast territory to the interests and opinions of the northern States, a territory now the seat of five among the largest members of the Union, was, in great measure, the act of the State of Virginia and of the South.

When Louisiana was acquired by the United States, it was an acquisition not less to the North than to the South; for while it was important to the country at the mouth of the river Mississippi to become the emporium of the country above it, so also it was even more important to the whole Union to have that emporium; and although the new province, by reason of its imperfect settlement, was mainly regarded as on the Gulf of Mexico, yet, in fact, it extended to the opposite boundaries of the United States, with far greater breadth above than below, and was in territory, as in everything else, equally at least an accession to the northern States. It is mere delusion and prejudice, therefore, to speak of Louisiana as acquisition in the special interest of the South.

The patriotic and just men who participated in that act were influenced by motives far above all sectional jealousies. It was in truth the great event, which, by completing for us the possession of the valley of the Mississippi, with commercial access to the Gulf of Mexico, imparted unity and strength to the whole confederation, and attached together by indissoluble ties the East and the West, as well as the North and the South.

As to Florida, that was but the transfer by Spain to the United States of territory on the East side of the river Mississippi, in exchange for large territory, which the United States transferred to Spain on the West side of that river, as the entire diplomatic history of the transaction serves to demonstrate. Moreover, it was an acquisition demanded by the commercial interests and the security of the whole Union.

In the meantime the people of the United States had grown up to a proper consciousness of their strength, and in a brief contest with France, and in a second serious war with Great Brittain, they had shaken off all which remained of undue reverence for Europe, and emerged from the atmosphere of those trans-Atlantic influences which surrounded the infant Republic, and had begun to turn their attention to the full and systematic development of the internal resources of the Union.

Among the evanescent controversies of that period the most conspicuous was the question of regulation by Congress of the social condition of the future States to be founded in the territory of Louisiana.

The ordinance for the government of the territory northwest of the river Ohio had contained a provision, which prohibited the use of servile labor therein, subject to the condition of the extradition of fugitives from service due in any other part of the United States. Subsequently to the adoption of the Constitution, this provision ceased to remain as a law; for its operation as such was absolutely superseded by the Constitution. But the recollection of the fact excited the zeal of social propagandism in some sections of the confederation; and, when a second State, that of Missouri, came to be formed in the territory of Louisiana, proposition was made to extend to the latter territory the restriction originally applied to the country situated between the rivers Ohio and Mississippi.

Most questionable as was this proposition in all its constitutional relations, nevertheless it received the sanction of Congress, with some slight modifications of line, to save the existing rights of the intended new State. It was reluctantly acquiesced in by Southern States as a sacrifice to the cause of peace and of the Union, not only of the rights stipulated by the treaty of Louisiana, but of the principle of equality among the States guarantied by the Constitution. It was received by the Northern States with angry and resentful condemnation and complaint, because it did not concede all which they had exactingly demanded. Having passed through the forms of legislation, it took its place in the statute book, standing open to repeal, like any other act of doubtful constitutionality, subject to be pronounced null and void by the courts of law, and possessing no possible efficacy to control the rights of the States which might thereafter be organized out of any part of the original territory of Louisiana.

In all this, if any aggression there were, any innovation upon pre existing rights, to which portion of the Union are they justly chargeable?

This controversy passed away with the occasion, nothing surviving it save the dormant letter of the statute.

But, long afterwards, by the proposed accession of the republic of Texas, the United States were to take their next step in territorial greatness, a similar contingency occurred, and became the occasion for systematized attempts to intervene in the domestic affairs of one section of the Union, in defiance of their rights as States, and of the stipulations of the Constitution. These attempts assumed a practical direction, in the shape of persevering endeavors by some of the representatives in both houses of Congress to deprive the southern States of the supposed benefit of the provisions of the act authorizing the organization of the State of Missouri.

But, the good sense of the people, and the vital force of the constitution, triumphed over sectional prejudice, and the political errors of the day, and the State of Texas returned to the Union as she was, with social institutions which her people had chosen for themselves, and with express agreement, by the re-annexing act, that she should be susceptible of subdivision into a plurality of States.

Whatever advantage the interests of the Southern States, as such, gained by this, were far inferior in results, as they unfolded in the progress of time, to those which sprang from previous concessions made by the South.

To every thoughtful friend of the Union—to the true lovers of their country—to all who longed and labored for the full success of this great experiment of republican institutions—it was cause of gratulation that such an opportunity had occurred to illustrate our advancing power on this continent, and to furnish to the world additional assurance of the strength and stability of the constitution.—Who would wish to see Florida still a European colony? Who would rejoice to hail Texas as a lone star, instead of one in the galaxy of States? Who does not appreciate the incalculable benefits of the acquisition of Louisiana? And yet narrow views and sectional purposes would inevitably have excluded them all from the Union.

But another struggle on the same point ensued, when our victorious armies returned from Mexico, and it devolved on Congress to provide for the territories acquired by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The great relations of the subject had now become distinct and clear to the perception of the public mind, which appreciated the evils of sectional controversy upon the question of the admission of new States. In that crisis intense solicitude pervaded the nation. But the patriotic impulses of the popular heart, guided by the admonitory advice of the Father of his country, rose superior to all the difficulties of the incorporation of a new empire into the Union. In the councils of Congress there was manifested extreme antagonism of opinion and action between some representatives, who sought by the abusive and unconstitutional employment of the legislative powers of the government to interfere in the condition of the inchoate States, and to impose their own social theories upon the latter; and other representatives who repelled the interposition of the general government in this respect, and maintained the self-constituting rights of the States. In truth, the thing attempted was, in form alone, action of the general government, while in reality it was the endeavor, by abuse of legislative power, to force the ideas of internal policy entertained in particular States upon allied independent States. Once more the constitution and the Union triumphed signally. The new Territories were organized without restrictions on the disputed point, and were thus left to judge in that particular for themselves; and the sense of constitutional faith proved vigorous enough in Congress not only to accomplish this primary object, but also the incidental and hardly less important one of so amending the provisions of the statute for the extradition of fugitives from service, as to place that public duty under the safe-guard of the general government, and thus relieve it from obstacles raised up by the legislation of some of the States.

Vain declamation regarding the provisions of law for the extradition of fugitives from service with occasional episodes of frantic effort to obstruct their execution by riot and murder continued for a brief time to agitate certain localities. But the true principle of leaving each State and Territory to regulate its own laws of labor according to its own sense of right and expediency, had acquired fast hold of the public judgment, to such a degree, that by common consent it was observed in the organization of the Territory of Washington.

When, more recently, it became requisite to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, it was the natural and legitimate, if not the inevitable, consequence of previous events and legislation that the same great and sound principle, which had already been applied to Utah and New Mexico should be applied to them;—that they should stand exempt from the restrictions proposed in the act relative to the State of Missouri.

These restrictions were, in the estimation of many thoughtful men null from the beginning, unauthorized by the constitution, contrary to the treaty stipulations for the cession of Louisiana and inconsistent with the equality of these States.

They had been stripped of all moral authority by persistent efforts to procure their indirect repeal through contradictory enactments. They had been practically abrogated by the legislation attending the organization o Utah, New Mexico and Washington. If any vitality remained in them it would have been taken away in effect by the new territorial acts in the form originally proposed to the Senate at the first session of the last Congress. It was manly and ingenuous, as well patriotic and just, to do this directly, and plainly and thus relieve the statute-book of an act which might be of possible future injury, but of no possible future benefit; and the measure of its repeal was the final consumation and complete recognition of the principle that no portion of the United States shall undertake through assumption of the powers of the general government, to dictate the social institutions of any other portion.

The scope and effect of the language of repeal were not left in doubt. It was declared in terms to be "the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States."

The measure could not be withstood upon its merits alone. It was attacked with violence on the false or delusive pretext, that it constituted a breach of faith. Never was objection more utterly destitute of substantial justification. When, before, was it imagined by sensible men that a regulative or declarative statute, whether, enacted ten or forty years ago, is irrepealable; that an act of Congress is above the constitution? If, indeed there were in the facts any cause to impute bad faith, it would attach to those only who have never ceased, from the time of the enactment of the restrictive provision to the present day, to denounce and condemn it; who have constantly refused to complete it by needful supplementary legislation; who have spared no exertion to deprive it of moral force; who have themselves again and again attempted its repeal by the enactment of incompatible provisions, and who by the inevitable reactionary effect of their own violence on the subject, awakened the country to perception of the true constitutional principle of leaving the matter involved to the discretion of the people of the respective existing or incipient States.

It is not pretended that this principle, or any other, precludes the possibility of evils in practice, disturbed as political action is liable to be by human passions. No form of government is exempt from inconveniences; but in this case they are the result of the abuse and not of the legitimate exercises, of the powers reserved or conferred in the organization of a Territory. They are not to be charged to the great principle of popular sovereignty: on the contrary, they disappear before the intelligence and patriotism of the people exerting through the ballot-box their peaceful and silent but irresistible power.

If the friends of the constitution are to have another struggle, its enemies could not present a more acceptable issue than that of a State whose constitution clearly embraces "a republican form of government," being excluded from the Union because its domestic institutions may not in all respects comport with the ideas of what is wise and expedient entertained in some other State—Fresh from groundless imputations of breach of faith against others, men will commence the agitation of this new question with indubitable violation of an express compact between the independent sovereign powers of the United States and of the republic of Texas, as well as of the older and equally solemn compacts, which assure the equality of all the States.

But, deplorable as would be such a violation of compact in itself, and in all its direct consequences, that is the very least of the evils involved. When sectional agitators shall have succeeded in forcing on this issue, can their pretensions fail to be met by counter pretensions? Will not different States be compelled respectively, to meet extremes with extremes? And, if either extreme carry its point, what is that so far forth but dissolution of the Union? If a new State, formed from the territory of the United States, be absolutely excluded from admission therein, that fact of itself constitutes the disruption of union between it and the other States. But the process of dissolution could not stop there. Would not a sectional decision, producing such result by a majority of votes either northern or southern of necessity drive out the oppressed and aggrieved minority, and place in presence of each other two irreconcilably hostile confederations?

It is necessary to speak thus plainly of projects the offspring of that sectional agitation now prevailing in some of the States which are as impracticable as they are unconstitutional and which, if persevered in, must and will end calamitously. It is either disunion and civil war, or it is mere angry idle, aimless disturbance of public peace and tranquillity. Disunion for what? If the passionate rage of fanaticism and partisan spirit did not force the fact upon our attention, it would be difficult to believe that any considerable portion of the people of this enlightened country could have so surrendered themselves to a fanatical devotion to the supposed interests of the relatively few Africans in the United States, as totally to abandon and disregard the interests of the twenty five millions of Americans; to trample under foot the injunctions of moral and constitutional obligation and to engage in plans of vindictive hostility against those who are associated with them in the enjoyment of the common heritage of our national institutions.

Nor is it hostility against their fellow-citizens of one section of the Union alone. The interests the honor, the duty, the peace, and the prosperity of the people of all sections are equally involved and imperilled in this question. And are patriotic men in any part of the Union prepared, on such issue, thus madly to invite all the consequences of the forfeiture of their constitutional engagements? It is impossible. The storm of phrensy and faction must inevitably dash itself in vain against the unshaken rock of the Constitution. I shall never doubt it. I know that the Union is stronger a thousand times than all the wild and chimerical schemes of social change, which are generated, one after another, in the unstable minds of visionary sophists and interested agitators. I rely confidently on the patriotism of the people, on the dignity and self-respect of the States, on the wisdom of Congress, and above all on the continued gracious favor of Almighty God, to maintain, against all enemies, whether at home or abroad, the sanctity of the constitution and the integrity of the Union.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

Washington, December 31, 1855.

ASHEVILLE NEWS.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Thursday, January 10, 1856.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—To the exclusion of almost every thing else, we spread this document entire before our readers today. We have no space for comment this week, and can only remark, that it has been pronounced by many intelligent men one of the best State papers issued since the days of Washington. Occasionally may be found, no doubt, a cross grained, disappointed politician, or small critic, who will attempt to disparage it, for the reason, perhaps, that he cannot comprehend its high-toned patriotism and dignified and statesmanlike views. We shall refer to the subject again.

☞ Editorials and communications crowded out.

BEAN'S STATION FOR SALE!

Pursuant to a decree of the Honorable Chancery Court at Rutledge, I will, on the 1st and 2d days of February next, sell at Bean's Station, to the highest bidder, on credits of one and two years, with interest from date, all the Real Estate of Thomas Whiteside, deceased, in Grainger county.

The well known and very desirable property known as Bean's Station is situated in a central part of East Tennessee, at a convenient distance from the grounds selected for the Bean's Station Depot on the

Cincinnati, Cumberland Gap and Charleston Rail Road.

and at the crossing of the great Stock Road from Kentucky to South Carolina, and the main thoroughfare through East Tennessee to Virginia. Its natural advantages for the building up of a flourishing inland town, are superior to those of any village in this part of the State. The Bean's Station tract proper, consists of

280 ACRES,

and will be first offered as a whole, to purchasers who may desire to own the entire estate or to speculate in town lots. It will then be offered in lots of convenient size and if the aggregate of the sale does not exceed the bid at which the whole was struck off, the bidder for the whole gets the property. There is also in the immediate vicinity more than

1000 Acres Woodland,

which will be sold at the same time, and upon the same terms, in lots to suit purchasers.

For further particulars address

T. W. TURLEY,
Rutledge, Tenn.

January 10, '56. 3t 2w

☞ I will address the people of Buncombe, Madison and Yancey Counties, on the Tuesday of their County Courts, in favor of a law to suppress Intemperance, Pauperism and Crime.

MARCUS ERWIN.

Asheville, December 31st, 1855.

BOUNTY LAND.

We take this method of informing those who were engaged in the removal of the Cherokee Indians, and whose claims we have undertaken to prosecute, that by a late decision of the Commissioner of Pensions, their claims will be allowed; and furthermore, that it is not necessary to make out their declarations a second time, the original declaration now on file at Washington, is all sufficient, and the claims will be taken up and allowed in regular order. Do not be imposed upon by those who would persuade you that a new declaration is necessary.

J. M. ISREAL.
I. B. SAWYER.

Jan. 10, 1856.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office at Asheville, N. C., on the 31st December, 1855:

A—Allen M T, Alexander Richard, Allison Harris.

B—Blackstock Robert, Burgin John, Byres & Rowan, Baylis Moore, Barrett W A, Brown M G, Barring Charles, Barnett A J, Birdseye Ezekiel, Baker John, Burnett & Alexander.

C—Coats G G, Cantwell & Eperson, Calloway B C, Campbell Jesse, Chitton Wm, 2 Crawford J, Cook John, Clark Wm.

D—Davidson A T, Dimmick W, Dillingham Miss M A, Davis Grizza C.

E—Easterly Thos J, Emerson T.

F—Finley R S, Farrar C D, Fox A, Francis Wm, Fain Wm, Foster Loudon.

G—Gibson Dr D J, Gilmer Mrs A C, Garrison Alexander, Gudger Miss Elizabeth, Gudger Mc Jas, Garner Mrs Wm, Garland Mrs H.

H—Hughey Julia A L, Henderson Robt T, Hyatt S J, Hyatt Anna, Harren Miss Harriet, Harper John.

J—Jones Andrew, Jordan Mrs A T, Jones Saml C, 2.

K—Kise Jas O, Kellogg A A, Kingsmore A M.

L—Land A J W, Lorance B A, 2, Lisle John, Loundes Wm.

M—McDowell Geo B, 2, Mills J Y, Myers J H, Morgan Wm S, Murray Wm, Moore Green M, McHenry J E, Moore W H, Murray Miss E E.

O—Olney M J, 2.

P—Proffit S T, 2, Pagenstedur Julius, Parker W F, Patty R W, Porter Wm M, Porter Alex, Parrow Wm, Patton R M, Patton A G, Patton Wm.

R—Ryan Thos C, Roberson Noah, Rollins Thos.

S—Sumner John, 2, Small Robt, Stevens Mrs J M, Sitton John G, Stovall John H, Smith Robt, Sweeny S D, Scarboro W A, Stuart Alex, Sorrels W F, Sales Theopoles, Sheriff Buncombe.

T—Tucker J S, Tweed Miss Jane, Thomas Henry E, Taylor J J 2, Thomas Mrs Mary B 2.

W—Womack Wm T, Woliver William, Whitaker W S, Wilson Miss Henrietta, Weathers M W, Williams A A, Wilkins Mrs Jane E, Walker Mitchell, Watson J W B, Wilson J, Wilson Robt, Waldrop M R, Wright J D.

W. L. HILLIARD, P. M.

$200 REWARD.

A PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency, THOMAS BRAGG, *Governor of North Carolina.*

WHEREAS, It has been Represented to me that THOMAS RUTHERFORD, late of the County of Ashe, stands charged with the homicide of one Tobias Taylor, Jr. of said County, on the 22nd of November last, and that the said Thomas Rutherford is a fugitive from justice, and has escaped beyond the limits of the State.

Now, therefore, in order that the said Thomas Rutherford may be arrested and brought to trial for his said offence, I do hereby issue this my Proclamation, offering a reward of two hundred dollars for his apprehension and delivery to the Sheriff of Ashe County.

DESCRIPTION:

Thomas Rutherford is represented to be about 18 years old, about 5 1-2 ft. high, weight 140 to 150 pounds, complexion fair, and slightly freckled, dark blue eyes and dark sandy hair, cut short in frontand top of head, large hands ,bold appearance and quick spoken. Fled to Virginia, and when last heard from was at Independence, Grayson County.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of North Carolina, at the City [L. S.] of Raleigh, this the 12th day of December, A. D. 1855.

THOS. BRAGG.

By the Governor:
PULASKI COWPER, *Private Secretary.*

SALE OF TOWN LOTS.

THE RAILROAD is coming and actually is in progress, and will pass directly through the town of Columbus, Polk county, North Carolina, from Spartanburg to Tennessee, and the Commissioners appointed by Court to sell the remainder of lots, offer for sale on Wednesday, 2d of January, 1856, 29 LOTS, some fronting the public square.

Terms of sale:—One two and three years, note and security.

The Treasurer of public buildings is also prepared to make contracts for the erection of a fine Court House and Jail. The plan and specifications can be seen by calling on WM. S. MILLS, Treasurer.

WM. S. MILLS,
J. STARK SIMMS,
JOHN WALKER,
A. E. MILLER,
J. L. WARD,
Commissioners.

☞ The contract for public buildings will be made on the same day.

SHAWLS, SHAWLS!

At prices ranging from 25 cents to $6. New, beautiful, and lower than last winter.

SMITH, BAIRD & VANCE.

Dec. 14, 1854. tf

A FACT.

The copartnership heretofore existing between Drs. J. D. Boyd and J. M. Stevens, is dissolved by the latter intending to locate at Marion. The undersigned will continue the practice of *Physic*, and take at liberal prices for services rendered, any thing that either man or beast can eat. Send it on, if you have any to spare—I need it.

J. D. BOYD.

Asheville, Nov. 29th, 1855.

CLOTHING!

A FINE LOT of CLOTHING for sale, cheap for cash. Overcoats, close bodied coats, vests, pants, and talmas.

Dec. 6. SMITH & McDOWELL.

PIANO FOR SALE.

A first rate PIANO, of fine tone and finish, will be sold on reasonable terms, if application be made soon to the subscriber.

T. G. MASSIE.

Asheville, Dec. 6, 1855.

ASHEVILLE

Mutual Insurance Company,

HAVING fully organized, will issue Policies of Insurance upon property and the lives of white persons and slaves, from ten to sixty years of age, at premium rates so low as to present great inducements to those who feel disposed to insure.

Property or slaves will be insured for two thirds their estimated cash value, and the lives of white persons for any amount not exceeding five thousand dollars, for one year, for seven years, or for life,—the lives of slaves for one year or for five years.

All losses sustained by any member of the Company will be promptly paid within ninety days after due notice thereof, according to the regulations prescribed by the By-Laws of the Company, has been given the Secretary.

It is deemed unnecessary to remark upon the advantages of insuring both life and property, as prudence and self interest will clearly dictate the course to be pursued by the slave and property holder, and by those the loss of whose lives would seal the wretchedness of their families.

DIRECTORS.

James W. Patton, W. D. Rankin, W. Williams, M. Patton, A B. Chunn, J. F. E. Hardy, Z. B. Vance, John Burgin, C. Moore, J D. Hyman, W. W. McDowell, N. W. Woodfin, J. W. Woodfin, H. Johnston, J. L. McKee, J. R. Osborne.

OFFICERS.

J. R. OSBORNE, President.
W. W. McDOWELL, Vice President.
J. B. RANKIN, Secretary and Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. W. PATTON, W. D. RANKIN, M. PATTON.

MEDICAL BOARD.

J. F. E. HARDY, M. D.
J. D. BOYD, " "
C. N. CANDLER, " "

ATTORNIES.

Z. B. VANCE, WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

All communications should be addressed to

J. B. RANKIN, *Secretary.*

Asheville, Nov. 15, 1855.

ECONOMY IS WEALTH.

To the Citizens of the 8th Congressional District of North Carolina.

HAVING received the Agency from the Inventors and Patentees of the latest improved and most highly approved

Grain Mills, and Corn and Cob Crushers,

now in use—found so profitable, and so extensively used in other parts of our land, in the improved methods of Stock Feeding—the subscriber is prepared to receive and fill orders for the same, at prices from 25 to 33 per cent. lower than they have previously been sold.

By the use of these *MILLS*, a saving of fully one third in food can be effected, as has been repeatedly tested; some say even more than that.

Every stock raiser should have them. One of these Mills is now in operation at this place. Full information in relation to the same can be obtained at this Office.

A. S. LANGLEY,
Traveling Agent.

Asheville, Nov. 29th, 1855.

FOR SALE.

THE HOUSE AND LOT near the College, owned by the subscriber. Persons desirous of purchasing will call upon W. W. McDowell, from whom they can learn terms, &c. J. M. CARLISLE.

November 22, 1855. 3m.

Spectator please copy 3 months, and hand bill to Mr. McDowell.

RAIL ROAD NOTICE.

AN Installment of one fourth of one per cent of the Capital Stock of the Greenville and French Broad R. R. Company," is required to be paid into the Treasury of the Company on or before the first Monday in January next. By order of the Board of Directors.

T. G. MASSIE, *Sec.*

Nov. 22, 1855. td

"Old Things Shall be Done Away."

The undersigned, successors to Smith, Baird & Vance, having associated themselves together under the name and style of

SMITH, BAIRD & CO.,

for the purpose of carrying on the Mercantile business, in its various branches, beg leave to say that they are now receiving accessions to their stock direct from New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Charleston, and that it is their full intent *to make their mark* in the line of business they have selected, and with a view of building up a permanent trade, intend reducing the price of Goods as low as possible. Test for yourselves.

B. J. SMITH,
A. E. BAIRD,
R. B. VANCE,
R. M. JONES.

Asheville, May 3, 1855.

FAIR WARNING!

THE subscriber having determined to leave Asheville on the 1st day of January next, is compelled to close his business here by that time.—All persons indebted to him, by note or account, are therefore requested for the last time to call and settle. His business must be wound up, peaceably if it can, by law if it must.

The large and elegant assortment of fashionable

READY-MADE CLOTHING

now on hand, will be sold at prices astonishingly low. In fact, the Clothes have to be sold between this and the first day of January, and all who want bargains had better strike while the opportunity lasts. A little pile of money will purchase a tremendous pile of clothing now. Be quick—you will never see the like again.

Country merchants can replenish their stock as cheap here as in New York or Charleston.—Fact—try it.

J. B. LOWENBERG.

Asheville, Nov. 15, 1855.

MINERALOGY,

Assaying, Civil and Mining Engineering, and Surveying.

THE subscriber is prepared to devote special attention to the above branches, and the application of Chemical Analysis thereto. Persons interested in MINING are invited to consult him for information or instruction in regard to the most recent and valuable methods of conducting the same.

Assays of Gold, Silver, Lead, Copper and other Mineral Ores, executed with punctuality and dispatch.

Assay specimens of one or two ounces, with a remittance of $5 00 for each Assay may be sent to the subscriber by mail. Metallic Ores tested by the most speedy and accurate process at $2 00 for each specimen.

WM. BEAL, A. M.

Murphey, N. C., January 4, 1856. 1y

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

James M. Blair & Co.

ARE now receiving, and intend to keep constantly on hand, a complete assortment of every style of

GOODS,

suitable to this market. One of the firm has just returned from the New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore markets, where he selected with great care an entire new stock of the most desirable Goods to be found in those cities; and having made his purchases early in the season, he was enabled to avail himself of the newest and best styles of Goods to be found. Buying at cash prices and selling for cash, they feel confident that the heading of this advertisement is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and they invite the community at large to come and judge for themselves. They can in an advertisement only call attention to a few things, as compared with their general stock. Among them,

Groceries.

Sugar, coffee, salt, molasses, rice, fish pepper, ginger, spice, cheese, tobacco, snuff, indigo, madder, &c.

Dry Goods.

Every variety and style of bleached and brown shirting and sheetings; brown and bleached drills; osnaburgs; bed ticking; linseys; calicos, muslins; de lains; worsted plaids; merenos; alpacas; rich black and fancy silks; ginghams; laces; cloths; cassimers; vestings; Ken. jeans; tweeds, kerseys; gloves; blankets; cot. linen and silk handkerchiefs; flannels; suspenders; sewing silk; spool thread; floss; assorted yarn; crewel; Irish linen; cambrics; and just whatever else is wanted in this line.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES.

All the assorted Drugs to cure all the diseases "that flesh is heir to." Sweet and castor oil; turpentine; varnishes; paints; salts; brushes; glass; putty; soaps; hair oil; logwood; cigars; and perfumery of every description.

Boots and Shoes.

An assortment never surpassed in this market, will be constantly kept on hand—being determined to keep up the *under-standing* of the community at all hazards. Come, then, and examine the ladies, gentlemen girls, boys, misses, children, and infant's slippers, ties, pumps gaiters bootees, buskins; goat, morocco, kip and calf shoes; boots of every style; Miles boots and ladies shoes; together with a full stock of sole and upper leather; shoe thread, &c.

HATS, CAPS, BONNETS, &c.

Their style of hats, caps, bonnets, &c., is perfect; children, boys and girls, men and women, may all get what is "*just suited to their mind*" by calling in, from a ten cent palm leaf to a five dollar Broadway beaver! Palm leaf, straw, leghorn, panama, wool, fur, silk, plush, velvet—*everything!*

HARDWARE AND CUTLERY.

Iron; steel; nails; axes; shovels; spades; trace chains; drawing chains; drawing knives; saws; files; augers; chissels; locks; screws; hinges; butts; latches; spoons; scissors; knives and forks; shears, pocket and pen knives; squares; compasses; dividers; tea kettles; smoothing irons; and irons; bridle bits; stirrups; shoe knives; candle-sticks; coffee mills; double bladed barlows; and all other such warlike instruments as are usually kept in this line.

CLOTHING.

Their stock of ready made clothing consists of pants, vests, shirts, drawers; over, dress and frock coats; sacktees and talmas, varying in price from fifty cents to twenty dollars. Ye that wish the outer man adorned as becometh the character of fashionable gentlemen, at prices as yet unequalled in Western Carolina give us a call. Tailors, stand aside for we intend to give the people "fits" without medicine, sickness, depression and prostration!

THINGS IN GENERAL.

Saddles, bridles, harness, fancy baskets, toys, rich carpeting, table covers, stationary, spun yarn, crockery ware, pins, needles, carpet bags, and all those other little notions that one forgets till they are gone. All are here.

Asheville, October 4, 1855.

J. T. GIBSON,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

BURNSVILLE, N. C.

June 28, 1855.

GREAT ATTRACTION!!!

New Spring and Summer GOODS!

THE undersigned are now receiving and opening at their *OLD STAND*, a heavy assortment of spring and summer **GOODS** of the latest and most fashionable styles; and embracing every variety usually kept in a retail establishment in this country.

They deem it unnecessary to enumerate the various articles, comprised within their assortment; or to specify prices;—suffice it to say, that they have been carefully and tastefully selected, by one of the partners in market; and will be sold at a *VERY SMALL* ADVANCE ON ORIGINAL COST.

They flatter themselves that the superior advantages of which they are possessed for purchasing Goods, will enable them to sell as low, if not a **Little Lower**, than any one else; and as you can get at their store any article you may stand in need of, it will be greatly to your advantage, *one and all*, to come, with your Feathers, Rags, Beeswax, Tallow, Hides, &c., &c.; and more important than all, with your pocket books well filled with *CASH*, and make your purchases of them.

To our old friends and customers, we tender our sincere thanks; and respectfully solicit a continuance of the liberal patronage they have hitherto bestowed upon us.

W. D. RANKIN & CO.

Asheville, April 5, '55. tf

Ready Made Clothing.

Received and for sale, a large lot of *Ready Made Clothing*. Call and see at

W. D. RANKIN & Co's.

Gentlemen's Furnishing Department.

A man, by calling on us early, can be fitted out and out, from a shirt collar standing at an angle of 45 degrees, to a pair of high heeled socks. Call at once, and the thing shall be *did*.

SMITH, BAIRD & VANCE.

Dec. 14, 1854—tf

Receiving and Forwarding

GOODS.

We will receive and forward Goods of all kinds at ten cents a package.

SMITH & McDOWELL.

Asheville, Oct. 7, '52.

SMITH & McDOWELL

Have a few of the finest bonnets ever seen in this market—ranging from $5 to $10.—Call and look at them, whether you buy or not. April 7.

CLOTHS, cassimeres, fancy and black doe skins, kerseys, tweeds, and every article of goods for gentlemen's wear, just received.

SMITH & McDOWELL.

Permanency of the Democracy.

The only party in the country at the present time which can set up a pretence of nationality is the democratic party. It is opposed by factions, with no bond of union save a common "wild hunt for office," and which factions disagree upon almost every question of national concern. Look at Congress! In the House of Representatives there is a majority of near two to one against the Democrats, and yet they have been voting more than a week for Speaker without making an election. The Democrats of the East, West, North, and South meet and adopt a national resolution as a bond of union, and have steadily voted for a man pledged to the principles of that resolution. The anti-Democrats agreeing in their abuse of the President and of the Democratic party, find it impossible, thus far, to agree about anything else, and have spent a week in attempts to reconcile their jaring elements. The opposition, elected as the representatives of different factions, seem to hate each other as bad as they hate the Democrats. It was a pleasant thing for the factions, before the meeting of Congress, to count up their strength, and show how largely their united forces outnumbered the Democrats. But now, when it is necessary to go to work, it is found that this majority is made up of men who differ with each other as widely as they differ with the democracy.

Such has always been the result when the Democrats have been found in a minority.—They have never been defeated upon a national issue; and when defeated by factions professing different creeds in different places, these factions have never been able to sustain the weight of power when first placed on their shoulders.

There is nothing wonderful in this to those who believe that no party can permanently exist save as the representative of sound and national principles. The principles of the Democratic party are not inspired by the excitement of the passing hour. They have a deeper and more abiding foundation. They consist of the fundamental political doctrines upon which the government of this republic ought to be administered, and are not likely to change with each new wave of the passions of the multitude, or to assume the hue of every passing popular excitement. They may be overborne by the phrensy of interest, sentiment, prejudice, or anger, which for a brief period sometimes seizes and sweeps away the judgment of the people; but the true Democrat, who is able to give a reason for the faith which is in him, is not at all dismayed by such a reverse; but abiding calmly upon the dictrines which he has espoused, he looks forward hopefully and confidently to the time when the sober thought of the honest freemen of his country shall discard error, and his principles, acknowledged and vindicated by their own truth and purity, shall guide the administration of public affairs.

Such has been the experience of history under our government. The Democratic party has been occasionally prostrated under the pressure of some sudden excitement, some pecuniary panic, or some illegitimate issue. But those who obtain the direction of the government under such circumstances, having no settled principles to guide their action, have soon shown impotency, and the public judgment has turned back speedily for safety and repose to the well-established doctrines of democracy, and has recalled to power those who, governed by those doctrines, have been able to carry forward our country in its unexampled career of prosperity and honor.

So emphatically has all this been true, that the leading measures which the democratic party has from time to time advocated, although meeting for a season with virulent opposition, have in the end won the confidence of the great mass of the people to such an extent as to be acquiesced in, and even advocated, by their former opponents. Hence it has come to pass, that of late years the democratic party can hardly be said to have been opposed by any permanent, organized, national party, with distinctive, well defined principles, but it has been called to encounter enemies warmed into life by some temporary excitement, having merely a present object to accomplish, often sectional, in their views, and not unfrequently advocating contradictory sentiments in different portions of the Union.

These considerations are of practical importance to Democrats. They teach to them the lesson of permanency of the democracy, and of the stability which should mark their political associations. They teach them an abiding faith in their principles, calmness and hope under defeat, and the folly of forming "entangling alliances," or departing from the path which leads unerringly to a renewed triumph of democracy.

These considerations are also applicable to the present position of affairs. Democrats are solicited on either hand to falter in their attachment to their time-honored principles, and in their devotion to a party whose history is the record of the progress of the country in prosperity and happiness. They are addressed with the syren song that old parties have come to an end, and that it is necessary for men to form new associations. They are constantly solicited to join a new association, which, it is promised, shall be more exclusively American in its principles than any present or past political party. Democrats who are wise, who appreciate the doctrines of their own party, and have a suitable faith in their vital energy and recuperative power, will calmly answer all those seductive appeals with the assurance of a firm belief that all the real reforms which such new organizations seek can most prudently and successfully be wrought out by the Democratic party. It has hitherto proved true to the cause of human progress, and it is unwise now to discard it and resort to other agencies. Even to the ambitious, if such there be in our ranks, the course which we are recommending is the path of safety and success. Democrats will forgive anything sooner than treason to their principles and organization. No statesman or politician, however talented and however beloved hitherto by his democratic associates, can court the favor of other political parties, new or old, and allow his heart to go after strange gods, without sinking in the estimation of the democracy of his State and country beyond the reach of the hand of resurrection.—*Nashville Union.*

☞The coal exported from Great Britain last year amounted to 467,799 tons.

ASHEVILLE NEWS.

JANUARY 10, 1856.

Indian Outbreak in Florida.

The remnent of Seminole Indians in Florida seem bent upon measuring arms again with the United States forces. The Tampa Bay *Peninsular*, of the 23d December, contains the following despatch, conveying information of importance:—

FORT BROOKE, (FLA.) Dec. 23, 1855.

An exploring party under command of Lt. George L. Hartsuff, 2d Artillery, consisting of one Sergeant, one Corporal and seven Privates, were suddenly attacked by a party of Seminole Indians, at day light on the 20th inst., about 16 miles S. E. from Fort Simon Drum—that party being about 40 miles S.E. from Fort Myers.

The party left Fort Myers on the morning of the 7th inst., and up to the time of attack were engaged in making a re-examination of that portion of the Big Cypress Swamp examined by the troops last winter. Three men of the command arrived at Fort Myers on the night of the 21st; it is supposed that Lt. Hartsuff and the remainder of his party have been killed.

Most of the public animals with the expedition, some eighteen in number, were also shot down. Lt. Hartsuff, when last seen, had one arm broken, and is supposed to have been wounded in his side. Private Hanna, of Company G., 2d Artillery, one of the party who escaped, brought the above information to Fort Myers. Hanna was wounded in the abdomen, not seriously, it is thought; he left another of the party, private Baker, also wounded, about 18 miles from Fort Myers.

Baker gave out at that point, and could come no farther. The Indians making the attack, were some twenty-five or thirty in number. Two companies of the 2d Artillery, were to leave Fort Myers on the morning of the 22d inst., in search of Lt. Hartsuff and the missing members of his party.

Other movements of the troops in the direction of the battle ground, were ordered immediately on the receipt of the information concerning the attack.

The above information embraces every thing known, officially, concerning the attack, up to the departure of the *Ranger*, and is reported for the information of the public.

LOOK OUT SAMUEL.—At a Democratic meeting held in Overton county, Tenn., a few days since, among the Resolutions adopted was the following:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Overton county will, in the next Presidential election, treat Sam as they did in August last.

☞A few days ago an old man was robbed on the steamer *Empress*, plying on the Mississippi river. The guilty parties were soon after arrested, and tried under the Judge Lynch code, with a display of much forensic, and the sentence of the jury was faithfully executed—one person received 150 lashes; another 50. They were then set ashore.

☞According to the report of the New Orleans Chief of Police, during the last six months, one-tenth of the entire population of that city has been placed under arrest.

☞Ground was broke for the Capitol of Kansas, at Lecompton, on the 24th ult. It is to cost $50,000.

☞The Deseret News says that beautifully white, fine and silky cotton has been raised at Santa Clara, in Utah, which a Virginian says is as good as any he ever saw.

☞The Cincinnati Gazette, says the number of students in the principal colleges of the West is unusually large. More young men of the West are pursuing a course of study than ever before.

☞During the year 1855, there were 62 fires in the United States which were accompanied by loss of life, the total number of souls perishing being 119, against 171 last year. The number of fires where loss of property at each reached $20,000 was 193, involving an aggregate loss of $13,049,000. Last year the loss at 223 similar fires amounted to an aggreate of $20,578,000. Adding the losses at fires consuming less than $20,000, the total loss this year is about $18,000,000 or $7,000,000 less than last year.

☞The shock of an earthquake was felt at French Mountain N. Y. on the 18th ult.

☞A lady is on exhibition in Baltimore, nineteen years old, and only thirty inches high—her joints are all double.

☞The Memphis Eagle, has received a pumpkin-grown in Tipton county—weighing 166 pounds.

☞The Columbia (Texas) *Democrat* hoists the name of Franklin Pierce, for next President.

☞The State debt of Tennessee, according to the Governor's message, is $8,744,856.

☞The demand for horses for the allied armies, has caused a great increase in their price in France and Germany.

CURE FOR DYSENTERY AND DIARRHŒA.—The following receipt is said to be infallible. It is simple, and will do no harm, if it does no good:

Saturate any quantity of the best vinegar with common salt; to one large table spoonful of this solution add four times the quantity of boiling water; let the patient take of this preparation, as hot as it can be swallowed, one tea-poonful once every half minute until the whole is drank: this for an adult. The quantity may be varied according to the age, size, and constitution of the patient. If necessary, repeat the dose in six or eight hours. Carefully avoid keeping this preparation in vessels partaking of the qualities of lead or copper. The success of the remedy depends much on preparing and giving the dose as above directed. In order to keep the preparation hot, it would be well to place the cup which contains it in a bowl containing boiling water, otherwise it will cool before being taken.

☞During 1855, 172,000 beeves have been received at the New York cattle markets. These, at an average of 650 pounds to each animal, gives full 111,000,000 pounds. The average price of 9 1-2c. per pound, makes a total of over $12,000,000.

☞A single manufacturer in New York city, it is said, has sent out over $300,000 worth of patent medicines the past year.

☞There is a passenger car on the Milwaukee and Mississippi Road that has run 125,000 miles, and never has been repaired to the worth of a dollar.

☞The London Times, advocates the amalgamation of all the rail road lines in the Kingdom.

☞There were in the United States during the past year 142 rail road accidents, killing 116 persons and wounding 539 others. Among the killed were 20 engineers, 19 firemen, 6 conductors and 16 brakesmen. Last year there were 193 accidents and 186 persons killed and 589 wounded.

☞The richest man in Congress is the Hon. Wm. Aiken of South Carolina. His property is estimated at two millions of dollars, including *over one thousand negroes!* Mr. Aiken is an elderly gentleman, active, accomplished and full of kindness of heart.—He is a fair representative of a "fine old Southern gentleman," and he is highly esteemed for his consistent views and ripe experience.

FIGHT BETWEEN AN EEGLISH NOBLEMAN AND AN AMERICAN BUFFALO.—Among the various items of news from the Plains, the Lexington (Missouri) Citizen gives the following:

"Two British noblemen have been spending the summer and fall on the plains for the purpose of sporting. One of them mounted his fine dapple gray charger, and, with his gun poised, rode off to a herd of buffalo.—Singling out his victim, a huge bull, he 'let slip the dogs of war.' The buffalo, badly wounded, halted to recover his breath. John Bull halted also. After a short pause, and a deliberate survey of his antagonist, the enraged buffalo charge upon the horse and his noble rider, making no distinction between noble and ignoble blood. Down came horse and rider. When John Bull rose to his feet, he saw his charger going on at full speed a little in advance of the herd, and the wounded bull ready to renew the dreadful assault. Re collecting that he was was an Englishman, and withal a nobleman, John Bull was too firm to retreat. The buffalo again pitched in; again John Bull came down upon the plain. A third and a fourth time was the fight renewed, when the Englishman, finding that the American bull was too much of a democrat to respect nobility, and remembering that 'discretion was the better part of valor,' took to his heels and left the plain and his horse in the quiet possession of the enemy."

CROCKETT'S DEATH.

Col. Crockeet, surrounded and closely pursued by a number of the enemy, retreated into a church, and stationed himself in a niche in the corner, feeling them as they approached. When some eight or ten of them were laid before him, a feeling of awe seemed to seize hold of the assailants. One of them who could speak a little broken English, probably preferring the signal honor of capturing so noble a specimen of American valor to present to his "dear master," said to Crockett, "surrender, senor." A flash of the most sovereign contempt darted from his grey eye and as it pierced that of the enemy, he seemed to be transfixed. In a voice of thunder, Crockett answered, "Surrender! No! I am an American," and as he spoke he sent a ball through the paralyzed foe. He appeared for a moment like a wounded tiger, strengthened and buoyed by every additional wound; now hewing them down with his well tried sword—next dealing death with his fire arms. His person was litterally drenched with his own blood; his strength must soon yield to its losses.—Yet such physical power wrought to the highest degree of excitement can perform incredible prodigies. This was the last concentrated energy of a powerful man aroused, animated and guided by one of the noblest attributes of man—love of liberty. He knew for what his life was about to be sacrificed; that devastation and butchery would follow in the footsteps of his heartless foes; that he would be sacrificed to satiate the desires of the conqueror; and feeling the holy inspiration of a dying patriot, he fought manfully till the loss of blood and the approach of death stopped his up raised arm. His rifle was broken to pieces, his pistols fell to the floor, and nothing but his faithful sword was left. In the agony of death, with a terrible grasp, he brought his last weapon upon the head of the nearest assailant, and fell victoriously across his body in the arms of death. In this corner of the church there were twenty-six dead Mexicans, and no other American having fought or fallen at that point, it is considered beyond all reasonable doubt that all of them fell by the hand of Tennessee's favorite son!

How a Coat was Identified.

In a justice's court in Boston, a case was recently decided in a novel way. A coat was in dispute, and the evidence was direct and positive for both claimants; the parties were Irish, and full of grit, "ready to spend all they had, rather than to give up beat."—The affair had been carefully examined and the court was in a "quandary," not knowing who had the best claim on the garment.—However, a moment before His Honor was to sum up the evidence, Patrick Powers, one of the claimants, made the following proposition for settling the affair. Said Patrick:

"Timothy Sullivan, now you say that coat belongs to yourself entirely. Now mind ye, Timothy, that both on us will take the coat an' look all over, an the man that finds his name on it shall be the owner."

"Done!" said Timothy.

"An' ye'll stick to the bargain" said Pat.

"To be sure," answered, Timothy, and "yes," rejoined the council on both sides.

"Thin look at it," said Patrick, as he passed the coat into the hands of Timothy, who vainly searched every part of it for his name, and passing it to Patrick, boastingly saying:

"An' now let us see if you can be findin' your name on the garment."

"Ye'll stick to the 'greement?"

"Upon the honor of a man," replied Tim.

"Thin hold on a bit," said Patrick, as he drew a knife and opened a corner in the coat, taking therefrom two very small peas, exclaiming as he held them in his hand, "there, do you see that?"

"Yes, but what of that?" said Timothy.

"A divel a dale it has to do wid it—it's me name, to be sure; pea for Patrick, and pea for Powers, be jabers!

He got the coat amid roars of laughter.

DAT OLD NIGGER DICKSON.—Mr. Dickson a colored barber, in a large New England town, was shaving one of his customers, a respectable citizen, one morning, when conversation occurred between them respecting Mr. Dickson's former connection with a colored church in that place:

"I believe you are connected with the church in Elm street, are you not, Mr. Dickson?" said the customer.

"No sah, not at all."

"What, are you not a member of the African church?"

'Not this year, sah.'

"But why did you leave their communion, Mr. Dickson, if I may be permitted to ask?"

"Well, I'll tell you, sah," said Mr. Dickson, strapping a concave razor on the palm of his hand; "it was jus-t like dis: I joined the church in good faith; I give ten dollars towards de stated gospil de fust year, and de church people called me 'Brudder Dickson; the second year my business not so good, and I give only five dollars. Dat year de people call me 'Mr. Dickson.' Dis razor hurt you sah?"

"No, the razor goes tolerably well."

"Well, sah, the third year I berry poor; had sickness in my family, and I didn't gib nuffin' for preachin'. Well, sah, arter dat they called me dat old niggar Dickson, and I left 'em."

THE TWO HEIRS.—"I remember," says the late Postmaster General of the United States, "the first time I visited Burlington, Vermont, as Judge of the Supreme Court. I had left it many years before, a poor boy. At the time I left, there were two families of special note for their standing and wealth. Each of them had a son about my own age. I was very poor, and these boys were very rich.—During the long years of hard toil which passed before my return, I had almost forgot ten them. They had long ago fo gotten me.

Approaching the court house, for the first time, in company with several gentlemen of the bench and bar, I noticed, in the court house yard, a large pile of old furniture about to be sold at auction. The scenes of early boyhood with which I was surrounded induced me to ask whose it was. I was told it belonged to Mr. J. "Mr. J.? I remember a family of that name, very wealthy; there was a son, too; can it be he?' I was told it was even so. He was the son of one of the families already alluded to. He had inherited more than I had earned, and spent it all; and now his own family was reduced to real want, and his very furniture was that day to be sold for debt. I went into the courthouse saddened, yet almost glad that I was born poor. I was soon absorbed in the business before me. One of the first cases called or iginated in a low drunken quarrel between Mr. H. and Mr. A. Mr. H., thought I, that is a familiar name. Can it be? In short, I found that this was the son of the other wealthy man referred to! I was overwhelmed alike with astonishment and thanksgiving, astonishment at the change in our relative standing, and thanksgiving that I was not born to inherit wealth without toil."

Those fathers provide best for their children who leave them with the highest education, the purest mora's, and—the least money.

EXACTLY.—Know Nothingism, says the Washington Union, was to rise on the ruins of the two old parties. It has risen upon the ruins of but one; and in the destruction of that, it has assisted to introduce factions of the most dangerous character into Congress and the country. The other old party, the democratic party, remains unshaken and unterrified, and is found in the hour of the country's utmost peril powerful to resist the dangerous tendencies of victorious fanaticism, and to stand in the breach in defence of the constitution and the Union.

GEN. LEWIS CASS.—Speaking of the purpose of Gen. Cass not to be a candidate before the Cincinnati Convention, the Albany Argus remarks: "We know not whether his countrymen will consent that his wish for retirement shall be gratified. However that may be, when his public service is ended, he will go down to his final rest honored by a larger share of the respect, confidence, and love of his fellow citizens of every section of the Union, than often cheers the declining years of any public servant."

TOO MUCH PHYSIC.—In Wilton, Conn., William Hanford stabbed Nelson Buttery in an altercation arising out of a jug of liquor obtained for medicinal purposes. It came near finishing Buttery.

It is a proverb at our Colleges, that the students who graduate with the highest honors are seldom heard of afterwards.

An Extraordinary Tragedy in New Haven.

The murder of Justus Matthews, at New Haven, Connecticut, is a most extraordinary affair, almost surpassing belief in this enlightened age. From a long statement of the facts in the case, given by the New Haven *Courier*, of the 24th ult., we take the following:

It seems that there exists in the upper part of the city a peculiar religious sect, known as the "Wakemanites," who have made their doctrines known by holding meetings at the house of a Mr. Samuel Sly. This Mr. Sly has no wife or family, but has a woman living in the house with him, named Rhoda Wakeman, who is the founder of the sect called "Wakemanites." This woman affirms that she was murdered about thirty years ago, and went to Heaven, and for some reason, which she does not state, came back on earth and founded the sect already alluded to. She preaches and prays, and holds meetings at her house, giving to those who assemble to hear her peculiar stories, her views about the Bible, and her experience in the spiritual world. Among her believers and followers are many families who live in Hamden, and they are in the habit of coming down to her house on every Sunday to attend meeting. She held a meeting at her house last Sunday evening, and there were present at the meeting Almeron Sanford and his wife, Justus Matthews, Betsy Keeler, a Mrs. Davis, and a colored man named Josiah Johnson. They met about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, and continued their meeting until a late hour in the night. About 2 o'clock Monday morning, the widow Wakeman (the prophetess) says that she heard a noise in the room below. She occupies a small room in the attic of the house. The house is a common story and a half house, with thin partitions, and a noise in the lower story could be easily heard in the rooms above. The widow says that she told Betsy Keeler, when she heard the noise, that she thought "all was not right below."

Nothing further, however, occurred until Monday morning, when Matthews not making his appearance, his son went to the door of one of the front rooms of Sly's house, and found it locked, but persisted in breaking open the door. He looked into the room, and there beheld his father *lying dead upon floor, with pools of blood surrounding his head.* The alarm was immediately given, and several citizens hastened to the house.—Clotted blood and hair lay upon the floor around him, and several pools of blood were found near his head. It was truly an awful scene to witness. The throat was cut nearly from ear to ear, and his head seemed to be nearly severed from his body. It is evident that he could not have committed the deed himself from the nature of the wounds. They were doubtless made by a hatchet or some instrument heavier and more powerful than a knife or razor. A small rope was found on the floor and marks of a rope were discovered on his wrists, and it was evident that the wrists had been bound by this rope.

The house was thoroughly searched, and bloody clothes were found, and marks of blood upon both sides of the door leading to the room in which the body was discovered. A common butcher knife was found in a box or small chest, well sharpened and having the appearance of being used recently, but no hatchet was found except one so dull and rusty that no use could be made of it.

The following persons were arrested during the afternoon, and lodged in jail, charged with committing or in some way being accessory to the crime: Israel Wooding, Almeron Sanford and wife, Abigail Sables, Thankful S. Hersey, the widow Wakeman (the prophetess) Samuel Sly, and a colored man named Josiah Jackson.

Subsequently a coroner's inquest was held, when some most singular facts were elicited. A. Sanford testified as follows:

I went to the house of Mr. Sly with my wife about dark, on Sunday evening. We found Josiah Jackson, Wooding, Miss Hersey, Miss Abby and Samuel Sly there? Justus Matthews is my wife's brother. I found them in the chamber singing and praying. About eleven o'clock Matthews came to the house. Widow Wakeman said she was haunted by Matthews—the "man of power" with an evil spirit. When Matthews came he went into the front room, where there was a fire. Rhoda Wakeman wanted Matthews to come to the meeting, so I went to see him, and he seemed willing to come. When he came my wife tied a handkerchief over his forehead, and they tied his hands behind him, the same as they would the devil. I told him he had a bad spirit, and he wanted to give it up. Jackson and Wooding were with him, and he talked with him about the evil spirit. Widow Wakeman said he was drawing a terrible power over her. Mr. Wooding told Matthews that he ought to be killed, and Matthews said he was willing to die to quench the evil spirit. Wooding and Jackson said Matthews must be got out of the way. They told him he must die. It was about one o'clock when I heard a noise. Wooding, Sly and Miss Hersey were up stairs praying with us, but dodged down stairs, and soon I heard them say, down below, "He's killing the messenger—he's killing the messenger." I heard a noise, and several blows follow, and started towards the door; but they pulled me back, saying: "If he's killing himself, he'll be raised." I heard a gurgling noise, and cries of 'Oh! oh! oh!' I then went up stairs to sing and pray. When I reached the door, I found it fastened and something braced against it inside. I could not get into the room below. This occurred about twelve o'clock, and I left the house twenty minutes past four.

As Wooding and Sly dodged out in such a manner I think they might have helped to kill Matthews. I think Matthews was willing to die. Sly said he thought he ought to die. After I heard the noise and cries below, Sly come running up stairs and kneeled down and seemed to be praying. I thought he could not pray much, for I thought he would not feel like it then. They believed that if widow Wakeman (the prophetess) should die, the *world would be destroyed.* I should think that from appearances he killed himself. If they (Wooding and Sly) killed Matthews, it was to keep him from enchanting widow Wakeman, who was disturbed by his evil spirit.

Josiah Johnson, colored, who was also at the house of Sly on Sunday night, testified:

I told Matthews he was killing the old woman, and that I would not let him into my house sooner than I would a mad dog. I asked him if he knew he had a bad spirit in him, and said that he ought to renounce the evil spirit. He said in the name of God he *would* renounce it. Amos Hunt gave the old lady (widow Wakeman) some poisonous cakes, with arsenic in them, and wanted to make way with her. I think Matthews got the evil spirit from Amos Hunt. Widow Wakeman is a woman who professes to have died and rose again, and came on earth to teach the way to Heaven. I believe that she is a prophet, and she is what she professes. I told Sanford to take Matthews away from the house, or Mrs. Wakeman would certainly die. I believe that if the widow Wakeman should die, the Millenium would come and the world would be destroyed. I believe that Matthews was hurting Mrs. W. and his sister by *enchanting them.*

Subsequently, Samuel Sly was brought before the jury, and made a confession, which is thus reported in the *Courier:*

CONFESSION OF SLY.—Sly opened by admitting that he, and he alone, committed the murder; although before he closed his statement, he related circumstances which tend to implicate Jackson, the negro, and Miss Hersey, as being accessories.

He says that his sister, Mrs. Wakeman, was so distressed with the bad spirit or power in Matthews, that he thought something must be done to remove it, and he consulted with Jackson in regard to using a stick of hazlewood on Matthews, to see what effect it would have upon him. He had procured a stick of that wood a few days previous, in anticipation that it might be necessary to use it for the purpose—as he thought the bark of hazle, in connection with alder, concocted together into tea, was powerful to remove enchantments.

This stick, which was about an inch in diameter and two and a half feet in length, he had placed in a drawer in the cellar, and when he spoke to Jackson about using it, Jackson inquired where he kept it. Sly informed him, and went and brought it into the lower rear room where Jackson and the woman Hersey were, and they knew when he went into Matthews room with it.

When Mr. and Mrs. Sanford went up stairs, preparatory to taking Matthews away, Sly went into the front room to Matthews, and after locking the doors, struck the deceased, who was sitting in a chair blinded, over the right temple, with such force as to bring him to the floor, and then struck him several times with the club. He then took his pocket knife, which is some two inches in length, and commenced cutting Matthews' throat. Matthews groaned, but did not utter a word after the first blow.

Sly also took a table fork, with which and the knife, he mutilated the body in the manner in which it was discovered. He says he did not design to use any other weapon than the bludgeon, but after he had given the blows, was urged on by some influence to use the knife and fork. After the murder, he remained locked in the room a half hour, when he came out into Miss Hersey's room, where she was, with a bloody stick and a light in his hand. His hands and shirt sleeves were bloody, and she procured a bason of water to wash himself, and they conversed about securing the stick, and he then placed it down cellar. His shirt sleeves were then torn off, and the bloody pieces burned in Miss Hersey's stove—she being present. He afterwards took the club used and cut it into pieces and threw them into the privy vault, where he also put the knife. He took up some of the blood from the floor, and carried it away. He then went up stairs, where the gathering was, and engaged in prayer. This is the substance of his statement.

After Slay's confession he was remanded to prison, and Mrs. Wakeman was taken to the jury room, and gave a description of her visit to the spirit world, some thirty years since, at which time, she says, she was murdered by her husband, and remained dead seven hours, during which time she made the heavenly journey, seeing the Saviour, all the prophets, apostles, martyrs and saints, and having a realizing view of the home of the blessed, after which she was sent back to earth on her mission. She states that she is seventy years of age, and has been the mother of fifteen children, nine of whom are still living. Her brother, Sly, is fifty years of age.

From the Greenville Patriot and Mountaineer.

Revolutionary Reminiscence.

We publish, with great pleasure, the following communication from our venerable friend, Mr. M'Bee. It is something to refer to events which a man witnessed seventy five years ago. It is much more so, however, to find a grateful fee ing kept alive during that period, for kindness received, and to see this feeling descending from father to son, as it has done with Mr. Cooper. There are very few men now living amongst us who can speak of the events of the American Revolution from their own knowledge and experience. Vardry M'Bee, Esq., is one of them, and is in the perfect enjoyment of all his energies, both of body and mind. Though eighty years old, he spends the greater part of every day in his saddle, looking after and attending to his varied business and pursuits.

Incident.

"Friendship not to be forgotten," but remembered.

When snowing yesterday a knock was made at my door. I opened it myself, and lo! a gentleman was there, who introduced himself as the son of a patriot Whig father, who fought in the severe contest between the Whigs, under Gen. Clark, and the British, at the battle of Cedar Springs, in Spartanburg, whose name was Adam Cooper, and who was brought to my father's house, with two other men, badly wounded—literally cut to pieces. One of them was examined by a Doctor, to see whether he was dead or alive. These men remained at my father's until they were partially recovered, and were nursed mainly by my mother, my father being then in the army, either in North Carolina or Virginia.—Mr. Cooper's thumb on his left hand was cut off, besides other wounds that I do not recollect. I was five years old, and remember perfectly that I pealed peaches for Mr. Cooper, and the manner he held them in the fingers of the left hand to eat them. It is seventy five years ago.

As an evidence of my friend Mr. Cooper's kindness, he gave me a sack of Apples, of his own raising, brought on purpose for me. And as a proof, Mr. Editor, of the skill, industry, and economy of Mr. Cooper's management in husbandry and agriculture, I send you some of his superior, fine and well flavored apples from his own plantation in the good old "State" of Buncombe.

VARDRY McBEE.

December 20, 1855.